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# THE TIMES

The wife every man  
wants, by  
Barbara Cartland, p8

## Abu Daoud flown to Algiers after release in Paris

Abu Daoud, the Palestinian who planned the events which led to the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, arrived in Algiers last night after a Paris court rejected attempts to extradite

him to Israel. He had been under provisional arrest in France. Israel has recalled its envoy in Paris and has accused the French of capitulating to pressure from Arab states.

### Identity denied at secret hearing

Mr. Martin, 31, was identified as the man who was released in Paris last night. He was the man who was released in Paris last night.



Mr Abu Daoud on his way to Orly airport yesterday.

defence he denied that he was Muhammad Daoud Audeh, a denial accepted by the court. "I was on an official mission," he told the bench. "I think I was right to think I enjoyed immunity during my mission."

Under the cover of his false identity, he came to Paris last week as part of a delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. He was released in Paris last night after a court rejected attempts to extradite him to Israel.

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## Sterling deal gives year healthy start, Prime Minister says

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr. Callaghan and Mr. Healey were jubilant yesterday when they announced to the Commons the \$3,000m (about £1,750m) financing facility agreed on Monday night in Basle as a safety net for Britain's sterling balances.

Against a background of a healthier new year, the Prime Minister told MPs that the new agreement, combined with the loan from the International Monetary Fund and firm government control on public expenditure, gave a very healthy start to 1977.

Mr. Pridmore welcomed the arrangement from the Liberal benches and even the Conservatives found difficulty in discovering anything to grumble about.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, opposition spokesman on Treasury Affairs, remarked grudgingly that the House would not wish to deny the Chancellor the satisfaction he gained from making the announcement.

Other Tories were not so generous, objecting that Mr. Healey had not yet given sufficient details for them to assess fully the value of the package.

In his statement to the Commons the Chancellor set out the agreement, which was intended to achieve greater international monetary stability, with sterling and the exchange markets ceasing to be affected by pressure associated with any run-down of official sterling holdings.

The new facility, he said, would reduce the British economy's vulnerability to external factors beyond its control. Agreement was possible because there was general approval of the Government's economic and financial policies.

By David Blake  
British authorities are to begin an intensive round of talks with holders of sterling balances in London to explain the details of the scheme worked out in Basle and to reassure them about its impact on holding countries.

The talks will be complicated by the leak during Monday's discussions which disclosed that agreement on a formula to deal with the sterling balances had been found. Britain had hoped to keep the details of the agreement secret until holding countries had been informed.

The clear intention in talks with the holding countries, of which Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Hongkong, Brunei, Nigeria and Ireland are the most important, is to let them know that Britain is at last prepared to see a phasing out of all the official sterling balances held in London except those needed for normal working transactions.

In terms of cost to Britain it will make little difference whether the countries sell their sterling in the foreign exchange markets and the Bank of England borrows from the Bank for International Settlements, or the countries buy the planned foreign currency bonds from the Treasury.

The authorities emphasize that there will be no pressure on holders of sterling balances to trade them for the new bonds; there will be no restriction on the funds of any countries that choose not to do so.

It is uncertain what form the bonds to be offered to overseas holders will take. The authorities seem to want to sound out holders to see what sort of bonds they would be interested in buying.

Referring to the option being given to official holders of sterling to convert any part of their holdings into negotiable medium-term foreign currency bonds, Mr. Healey said the agreement would not reduce the freedom of non-resident sterling holders to manage their holdings as they wished. The rate of interest on the foreign currency bonds would be about half that on existing sterling deposits; the precise level would be settled in relation to particular currencies.

Most of the bonds would be issued in dollars, but some would be in other currencies. Over a two-year period Britain would be able to draw on the facility in respect of any new inflows into the official sterling holdings from December levels other than reductions from conversion to the foreign currency bonds.

The rate of interest on drawings would be about 5 per cent (9 per cent less than the rate on existing holdings). Repayment would be over four years from the end of the draw-down period.

The Chancellor emphasized that the Government did not want to use the new facility to finance private holdings as a means of financing Britain's balance of payments deficit on current account.

The Government was concerned to avoid a shift of official holdings into private holdings under some sort of disguise. He would also seek to avoid a build-up in private holdings although he could not guarantee full success in that.

He agreed with Sir Geoffrey Howe that the package was an improvement on the agreement of 1968, because there was no guarantee to existing holders of sterling. Since the 1968 agreement the world's currencies had floated, so it was not open for any country to guarantee to pay the value of any bond, however denominated, in terms of other currencies or even its own.

Parliamentary report, page 12  
Leading article, page 15

## Britain is given 6 to 8 years to meet cost

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Heavy sterling sales, page 17  
As the sun sets, page 19

## Drug couple described as spreaders of death

'May' Wong (right), a Malaysian educated at Roedean, who, with her lover, was jailed in London for 14 years for trafficking in Chinese heroin. Judge Argyle, QC, said the couple were spreaders of crime, disease, corruption and even death. He called for the closure of illegal gambling clubs which the trial had highlighted. If the club existed, he said, there was no reason why those unlicensed clubs should not be dealt with swiftly, because they caused much of the misery connected with the heroin trade. Eleven other people were sent to jail for their part in the trade.



Report, page 4

## Union criticism of Labour rift

Leaders of 33 unions affiliated to the Labour Party criticised the political divisions between the party's left-dominated national executive and the Cabinet. The union officials, who had been asked to pledge more money to the party, said the open conflict between executive and Government hampered their ability to increase cash aid. But they agreed to help in a long-term programme of financial support.

## Shops defy ban on bread delivery

The Keymarkets supermarket chain has kept the price of a large loaf at 17p in its shops in the Home Counties in defiance of a ban on bread deliveries to shops charging below a minimum of 18p or 19p. The minimum was set by deliverymen belonging to the United Road Transport Union.

## Kaunda pledge on Rhodesia

The guerrilla war in Rhodesia will end as soon as an interim government acceptable to all parties involved is established, President Kaunda of Zambia has asserted. Mr. Philip Argyle, QC, said the British chairman of the Geneva talks, The Commons heard that a January 17 resumption at Geneva has been ruled out.

## More help for Ulster widows

New compensation proposals for victims of violence in Ulster include special payments to widows and children of murdered Servicemen. Compensation for injury to an unborn child is also suggested.

## Battle on 'Think Tank' report

A battle is being waged among senior civil servants over whether to allow publication of the "Think Tank's" controversial report on the foreign services, which is expected to be completed by March. The report is expected to recommend reorganisation of the Foreign Office.

## Barre visit: French Prime Minister and Mr Callaghan make joint call in London for early economic summit

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## Crecheslovakia: Dissidents set free by police but requested report for further questioning

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## Barter scheme: Iran announced an oil-for-goods barter system for all future imports

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# Bedford. Now Britain's top-selling trucks.

During 1976 more Bedford trucks  
were sold in Britain than any other make.

## BEDFORD



FAIR  
TRIAL  
AND

Mr. Agee  
monitored by  
intelligence.

Deportation  
allegation  
still with

By Stewart Tindle

Home Affairs Rep.

The Home Office

committee examined

deportation of Mr. Agee

former CIA agent

refused to give docu-

ments regarding him.

Mr. Agee, 40,

for allegedly making

contacts with foreign

agents, disseminating

information harmful to

security, and coming

in contact with the

public.

He was told that

he would be deported

unless he gave up his

contacts with foreign

agents.

Lord Goff, who

is a member of the

Home Affairs Rep.

committee, said that

the committee had

examined the case

and found that Mr.

Agee had not given

up his contacts with

foreign agents.

The committee

recommended that

Mr. Agee should be

deported.

Mr. Agee, who

was born in the

United States, came

to Britain in 1964

and worked for the

Central Intelligence

Agency.

He was arrested in

1968 and charged

with espionage.

He was released on

parole in 1970.

He was again

arrested in 1974

and charged with

espionage.

He was released on

parole in 1976.

He was again

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## HOME NEWS

# Judge jails Malaysian heiress and her lover for 14 years for trafficking in Chinese heroin

A Malaysian heiress and her lover, described by Judge Argyle, QC, as being up to their necks in heroin trafficking, were given 14-year jail sentences at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The judge said Shing May Wong, aged 30, and her lover, Li Jaafar Mah, aged 26, headed a conspiracy to supply Chinese heroin between May and October, 1975, and were spreaders of crime, disease, corruption and even death.

He told Miss Wong: "When your tiny shadow fell on Gerard Street, metaphorically the whole street was darkened and you and your confederates walked through the valley of the shadow of death."

Their sales agent and fellow conspirator, Molly Yeow, aged 32, of Montpellier Grove, Kenilworth, London, was jailed for 10 years. The judge told her that she might be regarded as the chief of staff, responsible for the collection of information and distribution of the drug.

Before dealing with Miss Wong and Li Jaafar Mah, who lived in St. Mary's Avenue, Finchley, London, and Miss Yeow, the judge sentenced 11 other people, all but one of them Chinese, who had been found guilty of or pleaded guilty to offences connected with Chinese heroin.

He told Miss Wong and Li Jaafar Mah: "You two were undoubtedly the ringleaders in this particular case which was involved in the distribution of diamorphine [Chinese heroin]."

"You, Mah, are a man of previous good character, but when your business got into debt you took up this type of crime at the highest level."

"In the course of your mitigation, it was accepted that you were the commander and

claimed only to have blamed Wong while she was safely in Singapore, apparently beyond reach of the law in this country."

Li Jaafar Mah also had two guns capable of killing, and one had been fired.

The judge told Miss Wong she was taking into account the fact that she had spent a long time in custody and had helped the police with information not divulged in open court. But he added: "You were born with a golden spoon in your mouth and have taken by way of education as good, if not the best, as this country can offer."

Medical evidence was unanimous that heroin was a drug with a very definite use, especially in cases of terminal cancer: "but you and those for whom you worked have abused it."

"You claimed to have infiltrated this criminal organization to avenge the murder of your father, a murder for which I am told seven men have already been judicially executed."

"I cannot judge the truth in this. What is certain is that unlike the police from Vine Street, who also infiltrated the criminal organization, you did it to make money while they did it to prevent crime."

"The evidence of the doctor from Hongkong about the dangerous nature of diamorphine and evidence of the deaths of American soldiers on leave from Vietnam shows the sort of goods in which you were dealing."

Li Jaafar Mah was also given three-year and one-year sentences to run concurrently with the 14 years, after pleading guilty to possessing two pistols and ammunition on October 23, 1975.

Sentences passed on the other 11 defendants were: Lo Sing Lai, aged 38, of no fixed address, a native of Hongkong, nine years, on being found guilty of the main conspiracy and pleading guilty to three charges of unlawfully supplying the drug to other people.

Choi Sang, aged 53, a Hongkong property owner, of Baseline Park Road, Shepherd's Bush, London, seven years, on being found guilty of the conspiracy and pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply.

Peter Po Hui Lee, aged 25, a Malaysian, of Westmoreland Road, Waltham, seven years, on being found guilty of the conspiracy and pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply.

John Benito Ritchie, aged 36, a native of Hongkong, of Fendiman Road, Lambeth, seven years, after pleading guilty to two charges of possession for supply; Chin Keong (Mervyn) Young, aged 23, of Milson Road, West Kensington, seven years, on pleading guilty to two charges of possession for supply; Man Hung Fung, aged 35, of Chalmers Road, Beckenham, seven years, on being found guilty of conspiracy.

Andrew Edward Franco, aged 34, of Hongkong, of West Kensington, six years, on pleading guilty to three charges of possession for supply; Richard Blanchard, aged 22, of Australia, of Broadway, Yaxley, Peterborough, five-and-a-half years, on pleading guilty to two charges of supplying the drug to another person and including six months for breach of a suspended sentence; Chung Kong Wong, aged 24, a Malaysian, of Fraser Street, Chiswick, five years, on pleading guilty to two charges of possession for supply.

Yoon Bin Lim, aged 23, a Malaysian, of Milman Road, West Hampstead, four years, on pleading guilty to two charges of possession with intent to supply; Richard Tse, aged 26, of Lansdown Road, Bournemouth, three years, on pleading guilty to unlawful possession of the drug.

The judge deferred dealing with Stephen Chow Mann, aged 20, a native of Hongkong, of North Road, Barking, Essex.



Sir Paul Reilly, Director of the Design Council, holding a royal silver jubilee mug designed by Lord Snowden. In selecting items for display the judges looked for imaginative ideas and good use of materials.

## 2,000 view jubilee souvenirs

By Peter Godfrey

More than two thousand people visited an exhibition of souvenirs manufactured to commemorate the Queen's silver jubilee on its opening day at the London Design Centre yesterday. Several lines of goods were sold out.

The exhibits were admired by many British visitors but received more enthusiastic scrutiny from foreigners. All agreed that the products made by sixty companies, selected by a design panel chaired by the Prince of Wales, achieved in most cases a high degree of craftsmanship.

The products on display range from limited edition of basalt and gold Wedgwood mugs costing £75 each to cufflinks, can-openers and, for the painstaking, a jigsaw which assembles to reveal the 'score of God Save the Queen'. A 'Corgi' toy car, on display, has yet to receive the official sanction. But the seal of approval has been granted to a version of a Victorian peep-show showing Her Majesty's coronation procession coming down The Mall.

Although the products exhibited will enjoy special prestige, any company can purchase the right to use the silver jubilee symbol for £10, half of which is given to the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, aimed at encouraging young people to undertake community projects. A glut of souvenirs is expected.

Not all those on display at the Design Centre measure up to the high standard. A children's silver jacket somewhat akin to a space suit was found, much to the consternation of the organizers, to have 'Made in Italy' prominently embossed on it, although the manufacturer was quick to rectify that technical hitch. A gaudy souvenir T-shirt might perhaps find more wearers at rock concerts.

Appropriately, in these devotional days, leather beer mats are available decorated with either an English or Scottish crown. Perhaps the last chuckle will go to Laughing Monarch Products Ltd. of Peasemore, which produced a pewter dish only three inches across, a bargain at £5.50.

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## Minister promises to restrain food prices

By Hugh Clayton

Consumer groups formed an unprecedented alliance with the Government yesterday, against higher food prices. They reported enthusiastically that Mr John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, had assured them that "spiralling food prices would be held back in 1977".

Mr Michael Young, chairman of the Government-appointed National Consumer Council, said after representatives of 20 associations had met Mr Silkin that they wanted to form a united front with consumer groups throughout the EEC against unnecessarily high farm-support prices.

"We are not against the Common Market," Mr Young said. Mrs Joan Mackintosh, deputy chairman of the council, added: "There is no question of bashing farmers. Let us get the equilibrium right between the interests of farmers and consumers."

Those who lobby ministers of agriculture customarily make statements to reporters afterwards on the steps of the ministry. Mr Young and his team were given a large conference room.

Even more remarkably, they gave an account of what Mr Silkin had said which was more revealing than his own laconic statement issued through officials. That said: "The consumer groups have reemphasized some points on which my view is already known, including the need to hold down common agricultural policy support prices."

Mr Silkin also said, according to Mr Young, "the more noise we make the better". The minister did not say that he would not hold down the remaining transitional steps to full Com-

munity price levels for two years, but he had condemned the system for creating food irrespective of whether shoppers wanted to buy it.

This is the last year in which British food prices move upwards in states towards full EEC levels under the terms of an agreement in 1973. Mr Young said those movements alone would add 60 pence to butter in the spring and again in the autumn and up to a large loaf. He thought these rises would add enough to farmers' incomes without the need for more increases at the imminent Community price-fixing.

There was only one point on which Mr Silkin had not given the groups all they wanted. They had sought an assurance that the Government would not accept a devaluation of "great pound" the device with which EEC farm prices are expressed in sterling.

Mr Young quoted the minister again: "He said that this, of course, is a barefaced, cunning, and unscrupulous device and that he would use this bargaining counter for the benefit of the nation as a whole."

Further support for the minister's policy came from the processing industry. The Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, which represents the largest makers of sweets in the country, said that British farmers did not need further increases in support prices for sugar.

"Increases have kept well ahead of the cost of living over the past three years, and an average yield will provide the beet-grower with an adequate return. There is no reason to give farmers financial incentives so that they will increase their area under sugar beet and produce surpluses."

## Six-month deadline for 20 more schools

By Our Education Correspondent

Mrs Williams, Secret State for Education Science, is to give the House of Commons a six-month deadline next to produce plans for comprehensive schools.

The list of authorities to be made final before Williams announces the House of Commons her first step in the drive to Education Act, 1976, into law.

The list will be divided into three groups. The first will include London and other authorities which Williams feels have no go comprehensive. They added to the eight authorities, which receive six-month deadline last year: Barking, Havering, Haringey, Hammersmith, Islington, Kensington, Lambeth, and Redbridge.

The second category will include the authorities which have one way to reorganise their schools as comprehensive, all large pockets of selection of them is Devon, and Williams' new directive aimed at Plymouth and Tameside.

The third category in authorities that have completely comprehensive for the individual school run as a voluntary controlled school. The target will be Birmingham where there are four Edward's grammar schools in the state sector, and W Hampton.

## Call for closure of illegal gambling clubs

By Clive Borrell

Unlicensed gambling clubs in Soho, London, should be closed immediately by the police, Judge Argyle, QC, said at the Central Criminal Court.

These were the den of drug smuggling, the judge said, and their existence should be brought to the attention of Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. They were the cause of misery connected with the supply and trade in heroin.

Ironically, the judge continued, there appeared to be no satisfactory law that enabled the police to close the clubs until they became officially licensed. If the will were there were ways in which the police could put them out of business.

Two detectives, Kenneth Beever and Anthony Beaton, both sergeants attached to Vine Street police station, were assigned to infiltrate the Chinese quarter of Soho. For

months they sauntered around the streets converging on Gerard Street, pretending to be in the drug business.

Eventually they were accepted as genuine "pushers". At much personal risk of violence to themselves and their families they slowly became the two vital inside men "the police needed to smash the racket."

Once inside the organization the two officers were surprised to find that one of its two leaders was a beautiful Malaysian woman, May Wong, aged 30, a former pupil of Roedean, who completed her education at a finishing school in Kensington before becoming a model.

She had come to London, she said, and trailed a gang of Triads, a Chinese secret society, who she believed had been responsible for the murder of her father, wealthy bullion dealer, four years earlier. She left her husband and children to insinuate herself into an

international drug smuggling racket so that she could find her father's killers.

She went to Singapore where, she said, she was believed could lead her to the men behind her father's murder. Seven men had already been convicted and executed for killing her father but she was sure that the man who ordered his death was living in London.

While working in London for the gang she was banking up to £900 a day and frequently going to Singapore with suitcases containing money in secret compartments to buy more drugs.

In Singapore she heard that some of her associates had been hurt in a road accident. She made a telephone call to Soho and was told they were gravely ill, she flew back to London and was arrested at Heathrow airport. The judge has spoken to on the telephone was one of the two detectives.

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The products on display range from limited edition of basalt and gold Wedgwood mugs costing £75 each to cufflinks, can-openers and, for the painstaking, a jigsaw which assembles to reveal the 'score of God Save the Queen'. A 'Corgi' toy car, on display, has yet to receive the official sanction. But the seal of approval has been granted to a version of a Victorian peep-show showing Her Majesty's coronation procession coming down The Mall.

Although the products exhibited will enjoy special prestige, any company can purchase the right to use the silver jubilee symbol for £10, half of which is given to the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, aimed at encouraging young people to undertake community projects. A glut of souvenirs is expected.

Not all those on display at the Design Centre measure up to the high standard. A children's silver jacket somewhat akin to a space suit was found, much to the consternation of the organizers, to have 'Made in Italy' prominently embossed on it, although the manufacturer was quick to rectify that technical hitch. A gaudy souvenir T-shirt might perhaps find more wearers at rock concerts.

Appropriately, in these devotional days, leather beer mats are available decorated with either an English or Scottish crown. Perhaps the last chuckle will go to Laughing Monarch Products Ltd. of Peasemore, which produced a pewter dish only three inches across, a bargain at £5.50.

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## Delay over 'hybrid' Bill issue

By a Staff Reporter

Preliminary hearings concerning the possibility that the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill is hybrid are expected to continue at least until next week. That will increase delays in passing the bill, which is implementing nationalization.

Hearings by the Examiners of Private Bills in the Lords began on December 20, and after the Christmas adjournment resumed yesterday. After yesterday's session Mr Hugh Gannon, of the Government, said: "We are getting concerned about the timetable."

However, after discussion with the examiners and with representatives of those who seek to prove that the Bill is hybrid and thus requires a lengthy procedure in the Lords, it became clear that there is no real prospect of completing the hearings this week.

During yesterday's session Mr T. G. Talbot, QC, one of the examiners, said he hoped the argument would be on agreed facts. However, Mr Christopher Bailey, of Bristol Channel Ship Repairs, said that if the Department of Industry was saying that certain matters were factual it had to prove its case.

Mr Bailey did not think it possible to decide whether ship-repairing companies should be included in the list for nationalization falling firm evidence about what work the companies were doing.

## Man getting £31 benefit 'was offered £33 jobs'

A man who has not worked since 1973 complained that he was sent after jobs offering £33 a week when he was drawing £31 a week in benefits for himself and his wife and two children. Old Street Magistrates' Court, London, was told yesterday.

Mr Basil Corcos, prosecuting on behalf of the Post Office, said: "Paul, aged 46, had told a Department of Employment official: 'Find me a £60 a week job and I'll go after it.'"

Mr Paul, a turner, living in a council flat in Stanway Street, Hoxton, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment in December 1975, for neglecting to maintain himself. Mr Corcos said:

He was before the court yesterday for a similar offence persistently neglecting to maintain himself in consequence of which benefit was awarded to him. He was awarded £15 and July 22 last year pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three months imprisonment, suspended for years.

Mr Paul said that if he took up one of the jobs offered he would be worse off after tax expenses. He had been employed until 1973 and said that he would have back to work.

Mr John Nichols, the Crown prosecutor, said: "I give you a chance to state this change of thought."

## Two to appear after £150,000 Scots bank raid

Two men are to appear at Airdrie Sheriff Court, Strathclyde, today in connection with a robbery in which more than £150,000 was stolen from the Royal Bank of Scotland at Cumbernauld, near Glasgow, yesterday.

Police officers arrested two men near Stirling after road blocks had been set up.

Mr James Binnie, Assistant Chief Constable, Crime, of Strathclyde, said the stolen money had been recovered, as had two firearms.

The robbery was at a bank on the edge of Cumbernauld new town.

## Pop group gifts described

Mr Alan Dunn, road manager of the Rolling Stones group, was asked at Aylesbury Crown Court, Buckinghamshire yesterday if the group ever given drugs by their father. Mr Dunn was giving evidence for the defence during the trial of Keith Richards, aged 33, a guitarist with the group, charged with possession of LSD.

Mr Dunn said in reply to Bruce Laughtland, for the prosecution, that he had offered gifts of LSD to the group. It was impossible to say whether they preferred LSD.

Mr Laughtland: Did it often proffer gifts of LSD to the group? It is a possibility.

Mr Dunn: The range of gifts was enormous. It is a possibility.

Mr Laughtland alleges Mr Richards wore a silver necklace round his neck with silver tube attached used as a necklace.

Mr Ian Stewart, of Banstead, Surrey, had been connected with Rolling Stones since the group's formation in 1963, said he did not give any instance when he had put a drug into a pocket of any member of the group but he had known it was "generally" in the past.

If members of the group to force their way through it was possible that they exchanged their own for the group's.

Criticizing the police, Peter Rawlinson, QC, Richards' counsel, said: "You think that if you or I been stopped for some offence or other we would be stripped and searched."

The trial continues today.

## 'Morning Star' man's post

By Our Labour Editor

Mr Michael Costello, industrial correspondent of the Morning Star, is to take up a new post in the Communist Party's industrial department. It raises speculation that he will succeed Mr Bert Ramelson as the party's national industrial organizer.

Mr Costello, aged 40, is expected to take up his new position in two months' time. He has been the communist daily newspaper's leading journalist

on industrial affairs for more than six years.

His appointment, which has been confirmed by the party leadership, is seen as a first step towards the national organizer's job. Mr Ramelson is nearly 67.

Before he became an industrial journalist Mr Costello held full-time Communist Party posts in South Wales and Kent. Previously he was an organizer in the communist student movement in Prague.

## Man to be cleared of landlady blackmail

Farzad Emami, aged 23, an Iranian student, is to be cleared of blackmailing his landlady with ropes photographs. Judge Polson, QC, said at Exeter Crown Court that there was insufficient evidence on the charge of making an unwarranted demand with menaces of £50 from Mrs Denise Sharp, aged 25.

The judge said the jury would also be asked to return a not guilty verdict on the charge of blackmailing Miss

Alvina Piramoun, a fellow Iranian student, out of £200. The decisions came after legal submissions by Mr Montague Waters, QC, defence counsel.

Mr Emami still faces three charges of blackmail: one against Mrs Sharp's husband, and two against Miss Piramoun.

The court has been told that Mr Emami made love to Mrs Sharp after taking what the Crown described as mildly pornographic photographs of her.

Mr Sharp was "appallingly jealous" of Mr Emami and followed him and his wife round the house trying to catch them together, it was stated.

Mrs Margaret Sharland, of Newton Abbot, a friend of the Sharps, said: "Mr Sharp had three loaded shotguns in the house and he (Mr Emami) was frightened that Mrs Sharp could be shot. Mrs Sharp agreed that she also was afraid that her husband might shoot her."

The trial continues today.

## Holiday refunds as the pound grows stronger

Many holidaymakers may receive refunds on overseas summer visits because of the strengthening pound. Two small holiday companies announced cheaper holidays or added extras for their clients yesterday.

Ibiza Tourism, which expects to send about 15,000 tourists to the island this year, announced a 2 per cent refund on brochure prices. People leaving on flights later this week may expect refunds of up to £4.

Another company, John Hill Travel, which specializes in villa holidays in Portugal, is paying for meals to do its clients' wintering.

Mr Harry Chandler, chairman of the Association of British Travel Agents, the tour operators' council, said the pound was gaining momentum against the Spanish and Portuguese currencies. But winter holidaymakers should not expect refunds. Winter holiday prices had been set against the pound's value last March and sterling had fallen far since then.

Laker Air Travel announced that it would extend its summer advance booking charters to America.

## Industrial democracy 3: Factory councils have influential role Foundation of good relations in West Germany

By Dan van der Vat

Legally guaranteed and enforced participation by workers in running their place of work is almost universal in both public and private sectors in West Germany, and is regulated by four seminal statutes. They are: the law on worker participation in the coal, iron and steel industries (Montan-Mitbestimmung) of 1951, the works constitution law of 1952 (as amended in 1972), the personnel representation law of 1953 and the law on (general) worker participation (Mitbestimmung) of 1976.

While foreign interest tends to focus on Mitbestimmung, the works constitution law is the true foundation of industrial democracy in West Germany and deserves to be examined first. The personnel representation law is effectively an adaptation of it to suit the public sector.

It applies to all firms with five or more employees. In general there are exceptions, it requires a works with 500 or more employees to set up a works council, on which one

member in three must come from, or represent, the shop floor.

They are elected for three years by the works assembly of all the staff. The other two thirds are elected by shareholders from the management.

Although workers are outnumbered by two to one, they may consult their union, whose representative has absolute right of access to the plant if he tells the employer he is coming.

If there is a dispute neither side on the council can take unilateral action. The management cannot order a change, nor can the workers down tools. Arbitration must be sought.

The council has the right to determine working conditions, notice periods, starting times, breaks, social matters and the like, and the duty to ensure that industrial legislation is applied in the works to the benefit of the work force.

Mitbestimmung works at company rather than factory level, and originally affected only companies in the coal, iron and steel industries with more

than a thousand workers. There the supervisory board, which, among other things, runs the company from day to day, has absolute parity between capital and labour, with a neutral chairman.

Under this year's new law, Mitbestimmung in an adapted form now applies to all companies with 2,000 or more employees. Germany's 600 to 650 largest companies.

New-model Mitbestimmung differs from Montan-Mitbestimmung in that it does not give workers parity with management on supervisory boards.

Three provisions give capital the final say. First, the chairman of the supervisory board is elected by shareholders; second, he has a casting vote in a deadlock; and third, although the board of 12 to 20 members, depending on the size of the firm, is theoretically equally divided between management and workers, at least one on the "workers' side must be a senior executive.

The ruling Social Democrats wanted to extend Mitbestimmung to the largest companies, but were prevented by constitutional difficulties and by the opposition of the coalition partners, the Free Democrats. As new-model Mitbestimmung came into force on July 1, it is too early to say whether it is a success.

An important provision in both forms of the system is that workers' interests must be represented on the management board by a labour director who controls personnel and social policy. The works constitution law also applies to all plants owned by concerns large enough to have Mitbestimmung at the top.

There is no concrete evidence that Mitbestimmung has improved labour relations, but plenty that the works constitution law has done so. That less spectacular but much more widespread form of industrial democracy is one of the main reasons for West German prosperity and industrial peace.

To be concluded

ADVERTISEMENT

## Make this year a happy one for lonely old Edith

Every day in 1977 she expects to spend utterly alone. The only voices she will hear are the occasional official caller, or on her few visits to the shops. The radio is her only company.

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The tragic plight of old people like Edith is easily forgotten amidst all the other problems of our day. The years are running out for them.

This is why Help the Aged has agreed to help raise the money for an urgently needed new Geriatric Day Hospital—to be part of the Central Middlesex Hospital; the total cost of which will be £280,000. Sir Francis Avery Jones and the medical staff at the Central Middlesex Hospital commend the project.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers Help the Aged is able to achieve a great deal with every £ donated, both at home and overseas.

£5 can bring practical help to another lonely person. £30 can help towards a new Geriatric unit. £150 perpetuates the memory of someone dear to you, by inscribing their name on the Dedication Plaque of a Day Centre in Britain. £100 names a hospital bed in Asia.

Your donation is desperately needed to help old people. So please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T2, FREEPOST 37, LONDON W1E 6UZ (No stamp needed).

\*Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

## Ministry studies Children Act errors

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The Department of Health and Social Security is considering what action may be necessary in the light of inaccuracies in the Children Act, 1975, disclosed by Mr Hugh Rossi, an opposition spokesman on the environment. But the department takes the view that the published form of the Act is the law, until challenged.

The inaccuracies in the published form of the Act concern a section limiting the right of a local authority to remove a child from a foster-home when the foster-parents or another family apply to adopt the child.

The section was amended in the standing committee on the Children Bill in the Commons, but the amended form was lost between the committee stage and the third reading.

Because the amended section was not presented at the third reading, the Bill cleared all remaining stages without it.

Towards the end of the 1975 session, when there was pressure to complete a number of measures, the Bill was rushed through.

Mr Rossi has questioned whether both the Children Act and the Rent (Agriculture) Act, dealing with farmworkers in tied cottages, can be valid

when both have been published without amendments passed by Parliament. The Government has promised a short Bill to amend the Rent (Agriculture) Act to correct the discrepancies.

The department is taking legal advice on whether a similar measure will be necessary to correct the Children Act.

The purpose of the amendment was to make clear that the restrictions on removing a child from a foster-home apply when a child is in the care of one local authority while the prospective adopter lives in another.

## Information on conveyancing fees suggested

By Our Legal Correspondent

The British Property Federation has proposed that solicitors should be allowed to publicize information on their scale charges for domestic conveyancing.

In evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services the federation says the legal profession should continue to have a monopoly on some property conveyancing work.

But there was room to extend the practice of delegating many duties not requiring the services of a fully qualified solicitor.

## Labour call for Chile match to be cancelled

The Labour Party's international committee is asking ministers to bring pressure on the Scottish Football Association to cancel Scotland's match against Chile at Santiago in June.

Mr Ian Mikardo, MP, chairman of the committee, said yesterday: "This match would be played at the stadium which was a concentration camp."

"Many people were held there before being taken away to their deaths. We do not think that Britain should be playing football in that place."

The committee is to ask Mr

Crosland, Foreign Secretary, to ask Mr. Howell, minister responsible for sport, and Mr. McEldown, Scottish minister responsible for sport, to ask the Football Association to cancel the match.

The international committee has also unanimously adopted a resolution criticizing the Soviet Union for holding political prisoners. It said that exchange of prisoners should be a condition for any peace agreement with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Mikardo said that the Soviet Union was the first admission for a Chilean political prisoner. The international committee had a list of prisoners.

فكرنا من الأصل



## Six-month deadline simplifying air fares would mean rises, inquiry will be told

By Our Education Correspondent

British Airways is to tell its customers that a six-month deadline for simplifying air fares would mean rises, an inquiry will be told.

The airline's inquiry into the matter is expected to be completed by the end of the year. It is expected that the inquiry will find that a six-month deadline for simplifying air fares would mean rises, an inquiry will be told.

The inquiry is being held over several days by the Civil Aviation Authority, after a report by the airline's inquiry committee, which said that the present structure of fares was "overly complicated and overcharged many passengers".

The committee said that air fares in Europe were a "jungle", and that there were "too many rules and regulations". It also said that the airline's fares were "too high" and that it was "not clear what the airline is trying to achieve".

The committee recommended that the airline should "simplify its fares" and that it should "reduce the number of fare classes". It also recommended that the airline should "review its fares" and that it should "consider the possibility of reducing fares".

The airline's inquiry committee is expected to report to the Civil Aviation Authority by the end of the year. It is expected that the inquiry will find that a six-month deadline for simplifying air fares would mean rises, an inquiry will be told.

## Amenities decline since civic changes

Reorganization of local government has not, as was hoped, improved the environmental field, the Civic Trust for the North West says.

Launching a guidance booklet for amenity societies battling with local authorities, Professor Graham Ashworth, Professor of Urban Environmental Studies at Salford University and executive chairman of the trust, said in Manchester yesterday: "The evidence is that extended bureaucracy, protracted decision-making procedures and a persistent basic insensitivity on the part of members and officials is resulting, if anything, in a decline of environmental standards rather than an improvement."

The booklet is intended to guide the amenity societies, according to Professor Ashworth, gave a "breathing space" to local authorities during the reorganization period, and as a consequence have lost some of their initiative.

He said the time had come for them to reactivate themselves and fight against such offences as the creation of out-of-scale buildings, the unnecessary felling of trees, and the depopulation of conservation areas by unnecessary signs and lighting standards.

Professor Ashworth said that since local government reorganization it seemed to take twice as long to get a decision on any planning matter.

Ask (Civic Trust for the North West, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M2 5QD).

## Television too demanding a medium for inexperienced entertainers to be given series, expert says

BBC chief denies that talent is ignored

By Kenneth Gosling

People who maintained that a vast amount of untapped talent in Britain was ignored by television got a short answer yesterday from the man in charge of light entertainment for BBC television.

"I am afraid I just don't believe it," Mr William Cotton said in a BBC lunchtime lecture.

He said that, especially after holiday periods, letters were sent in by people who said they had seen "in some tavern in Spain" a singer, comedian or group much better than "the rubbish you see on television."

He did not argue that there were not people who might be able to entertain on television to a high standard. But the demands of television were enormous, and it was the corporation's responsibility to make sure that an artist was not committed to a series until he or she had the ability and experience to sustain that sort of exposure.

On the other hand, it was vital to keep an open mind and to watch for anything that was new and possible to develop on television.

Mr Cotton also had something to say about the ratings and about charges of extravagance that were levelled against the BBC.

"I have always believed that any entertainment programme that attracts an audience of about 10 million is more than earning its keep, and the criterion that we should apply is as much the enjoyment that people derive from the programme as the number of people who watch it."



Mr William Cotton: Necessary to keep an open mind.

## Acas denies 'bullying' equal-pay applicants

By Diana Geddes

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) yesterday rejected allegations that its officials had "bullied" women into withdrawing their cases complaining of infringements of the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts.

In a report published yesterday, on the first year of operation of the two Acts, the National Council for Civil Liberties refers to 606 cases out of 2,053 applications under the Equal Pay Act registered with Acas in the first eight months of 1976, which were withdrawn for reasons other than a private settlement.

Details of why those 606 cases were withdrawn were not available from Acas, the council says. Some would obviously have been dropped on advice that the applicants had no case in law. But the council had heard reports from women who said they had been "bullied" into withdrawing their case by an Acas official who did not really understand the law himself.

Mr James Mortimer, chairman of Acas, which has a statutory duty to offer its services to those applying to an industrial tribunal, has written to Miss Patricia Hewitt, general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties: "In nearly two and a half years of existence, I have not received a single complaint from a trade union or from anyone else that any of our staff have bullied applicants into withdrawing complaints under any of the laws affecting employment rights."

## Few benefits for unemployed

Many of Britain's 1,300,000 unemployed are receiving only supplementary benefit, Mr Orme, Minister of State for Social Security, told a Commons standing committee yesterday.

Most people out of work had run out of other forms of aid, including unemployment benefit.

## Insurance change for house rebuilding

£31 benefit £33 jobs

A Staff Reporter

Householders whose homes have been damaged by subsidence may soon find that they have to find hundreds of pounds more than they expected to meet repairs, even though they are insured.

Most insurance companies have faced claims for substantial damage over the past few years because of the drought, and have decided to require householders of policies to pay excess of 3 to 5 per cent of cost of rebuilding the house, not, as at present, of the insured value.

Householders whose properties are underinsured might find their part of the repair bill to be much larger than they expected. Most insurance companies are now sending out

notice of this change in the conditions affecting the excess with the householder's policy-renewal notice.

Insurance companies have found that many householders have not taken account of the sharp increase in building costs in assessing the value of their homes for insurance purposes. The national average building cost a square foot is now £21, up from £15 two years ago.

Home insurance companies have found that they were paying out proportionately more to underinsured householders than to those who had made the effort to keep their insurances up to date. Hence their decision to base the excess payable by householders on the real value of the home, that is, the rebuilding costs, rather than the insured value.

## Pop one-day strike called over gifts

Christopher Thomas

A one-day strike by 35,000 workers in the telecommunications industry has been called for February by the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union to protest at Post Office cuts in spending on telephone exchange equipment.

The union, which is seeking support of 20,000 jobs are at stake.

The action will not affect phone services, as the union's members are not employed directly by the Post Office. Mr Roy Sanderson, the union's general secretary, said last night that 14,000 jobs had already been lost because of reduced Post Office orders.

In November 8 the Post Office announced a reduction of £200m in its forthcoming spring levels. The unions and manufacturing companies have posed an alternative strategy of a more aggressive marketing policy. They suggested telephone installation charges and a single telephone tariff. A high-level inquiry into the Post Office and its relationships with manufacturing companies has been called for.

## Safety and price warning on open-flame gas fires

Mr John Charters

The North Western Gas Consumers' Council yesterday issued a combined safety and price warning against open flame "log-effect" gas fires which are being sold in their thousands.

In a statement by its chairman, George Read, spoke of "a great possibility of danger" with some models. He said the British Gas Corporation was not prepared to sell service log-effect fires, only on the ground of low efficiency.

He said it was alleged that manufacturers had included artificial ash which had led out to be fibres of asbestos. They might prove a health hazard. Ventilation was vital.

Diverting material by one manufacturer, quoted figures as much as a small central heating boiler, and a off the same amount of gas as a one-bar electric fire, said. A log-effect fire on cheapest gas tariff worked on for four hours a week and eight hours a week on Sundays.

Mr Arthur Corry, chairman of the Greater Manchester House of Living Fires, of Greater Manchester, said three thousand applicants at about £100 each in

the past year, said on behalf of his company. "All our safety standards conform with those laid down in the United States, where this type of fire was first developed."

His company insisted on proper flue and ventilation provisions before installing the fires. He understood that another firm might have used asbestos particles but had withdrawn the material when the potential danger was pointed out.

Mr Wilfred Howard, of Turner and Newall Ltd, asbestos manufacturers, said open flame log fires were supplied with bags of substances that when scattered on the fire created the appearance of glowing embers. Some bags did contain asbestos fibre but his company regarded that as a frivolous use of asbestos.

While it was probably not dangerous while the fire was burning, if children got hold of the material there might be difficulties. His company declined to supply asbestos to gas-fire manufacturers for that purpose.

The North West Gas Board said that one type of "flame through logs" fire was approved by the board and sold in its showrooms.

It incorporated a heavy glass facing which shut the whole fire out from the room in which it was used.

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WEST EUROPE

# Señor Suarez meets negotiating team of opposition parties

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Jan 11. Shootings in the past two days and a rash of demonstrations in which at least two persons have died in a week have aroused fears that Spain might be on the verge of a situation comparable to that in Argentina, of uncontrolled and escalating violence.

However, the Suarez Government remains calm and appears to be moving firmly towards its announced democratic goals. A negotiating team of four, representing virtually all the opposition parties from centre to left, was received today by Señor Suarez. Opposition leaders had earlier publicly announced that their mission was to negotiate the legalization of all political parties and the broadening of the amnesty.

In another step towards liberalization, a special committee of the Ministry of Justice has reportedly finished its study of a proposal to abrogate the law authorizing the Government to fine or jail dissidents without trial.

The Roman Catholic news agency Logos reported in Madrid today that, according to the proposal, jurisdiction over administrative sanctions would be transferred to ordinary courts.

With the appeal for amnesty spreading, the Madrid evening newspaper, *Informaciones*, said today: "It seems that there is already a consensus between the Suarez Government and the democratic opposition about the need to set political prisoners free as soon as possible. It would not be surprising if the Cabinet took up the question of amnesty at its meeting this week."

On pressure to legalize the

Spanish Communist Party, the newspaper said: "It seems clear that the PCE will be able to present candidates for Parliament, either through 'electoral groups' or as independents. But there will be no legal recognition of (Señor Santiago) Carrillo's party before the spring elections, by all indications."

Terrorists seriously wounded a factory executive in the Basque country today, in the second political shooting in two days.

Señor Gonzalo Santos Turis, director of safety and sanitation at the Magfesa factory of home appliances, near Bilbao, was reported to be in serious condition. Gunmen had fired at him from a parked car as he was on his way to work. He had five bullet wounds, the most serious of which were to his stomach and intestines.

It is believed that the attack was carried out by the separatist organization Euzko Askatasuna. Señor Santos is said to have right-wing sympathies.

Doctors in a Madrid hospital reported today that the condition of the three guards from the aircraft factory who had been shot by members of the so-called Reconstructed Communist Party yesterday was improving.

Bilbao: An open air funeral

mass for a 15-year-old youth who died during a recent protest demonstration tonight turned into a huge political rally with 25,000 people shouting: "Amnesty" and "freedom."

About 60,000 workers around Bilbao, Spain's most important port, struck for the second day to protest against police brutality and the youth's death.

Reuters.

# Franco-British call for early summit

By Edward Mortimer

The French and British Governments agreed last night on the need for an early economic summit meeting with the new President of the United States, with unemployment high on the agenda.

Agreement was reached at informal talks between Mr Callaghan and Mr Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, who is on a brief, private visit to London.

It was agreed that the time and place of the summit would have to be discussed with President-elect Carter, Mr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and the other leaders involved. Mr Callaghan said he would be quite happy to have it in Britain, as suggested last week by President Giscard d'Estaing, if that was what other governments wanted; but he would be equally happy to attend a meeting elsewhere.

The talks, which were very friendly, lasted an hour and a half—well beyond the time scheduled for them. Mr Barre then went on to see Mr Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, before speaking at a dinner given by the French Chamber of Commerce.

In his speech, Mr Barre urged French companies to invest in Britain. "We in France are convinced," he said, "that Britain's economic future, beyond her present difficulties, is very promising. Our firms should therefore be investing

here both in the distribution

sector and in production."

This was already happening in North Sea oil exploration, he added, but should be extended to other sectors. He also urged more British investment in France, "the development of which has recorded a certain setback in the past few years."

Mr Barre also emphasized the importance of technological co-operation between the two nations, and deplored the failure of attempted "rap-provements" in nuclear energy and the computer industry.

He went on to urge the removal of obstacles to Franco-British trade, such as time differences, excessive customs formalities, and "numerous transport problems."

Both countries' economic difficulties were due essentially to the over-rapid rise of production costs and especially wage costs, he said. In Britain's case he was "convinced that the measures recently decided, as well as the financial help obtained from international institutions, will make it possible to accelerate the economic recovery."

Mr Barre also insisted on the need to increase French exports to Britain, pointing out that British exports to France had increased very rapidly last year. He accused French firms of being "insufficiently aggressive" in the British market, and underestimating its appetite for French products.



M. Barre with Mr Callaghan at Downing Street yesterday.

# Burglars break into home of murdered prince

Brogie, north-west France, Jan 11.—Burglars broke into the chateau of Prince Jean de Broglie, the murdered French politician, during the night, but apparently left empty-handed. The prince's widow was reported to have found nothing missing in a preliminary check of the library, where the burglars had entered. They forced open a drawer and a small chest and set off an alarm which made them flee.

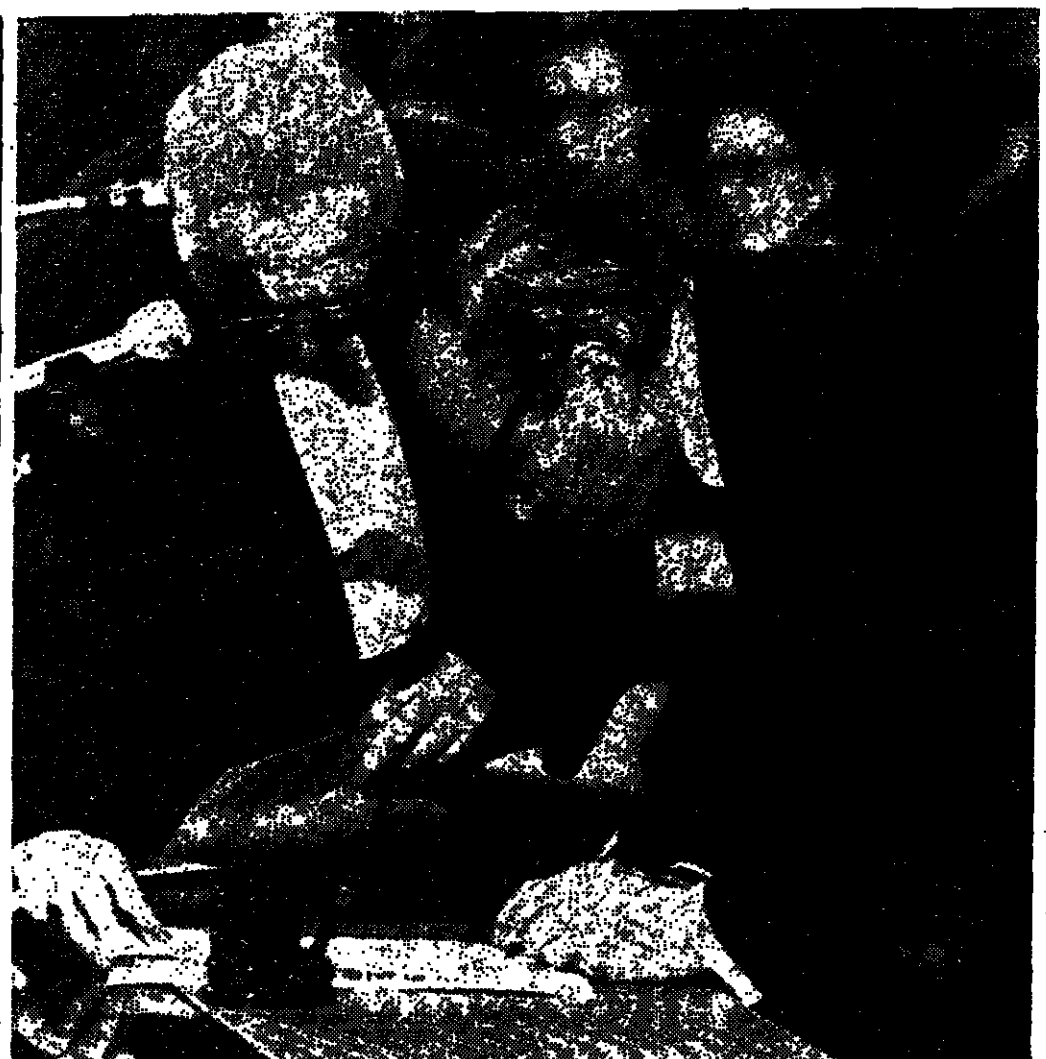
Police sources said that the burglars appeared to be well acquainted with the layout of the chateau—Agence France-Presse.

# War crimes man moved to prison hospital

The Hague, Jan 11. Dutch businessman facing charges of war crimes who was extradited from Switzerland, has been transferred from the Amsterdam House of Detention to the prison hospital at Scheveningen jail. He suffers from diabetes.

The Ministry of Justice said his condition was "not alarming at this moment." He is expected to face trial in March.

Mr Menten has been questioned almost continuously since his extradition on December 22.



Mr Jenkins signs his name as President of the EEC Commission for the first time after taking the oath at the European Court of Justice.

# Tributes at EEC to Mr Jenkins

Continued from page 1

policy could "serve the common good in providing stable supplies of food at reasonable prices as well as stable markets for an efficient European agricultural system."

Discussing the growing divergence of the economies of the member states, Mr Jenkins said that it was no answer to ask the strong to become less strong, and less effectively managed. The Community had no business promoting an "equality of weakness."

Nevertheless, Mr Jenkins went on, the willingness of the strong to help the weak, provided the latter were prepared to help themselves, was one of the distinguishing features of the Community. The larger the EEC became, the easier it became to neglect its weak areas. This could ultimately lead to its destruction.

Of those countries which could be counted on to sustain justice for all, individual freedom and intellectual integrity, the EEC accounted for about half. What hope was there for humanity, Mr Jenkins asked, if these countries, among "the richest and certainly among the most favoured and talented populations of the globe," could not learn to live together?

Speaking for the Parliament's Conservative group, Sir

Peter Kirk described Mr Jenkins as "a very great European." The new Commission was a "formidable team" from which much was expected. Other speakers covering the spectrum from Christian Democrat to Communist, echoed this warm endorsement of the abilities of Mr Jenkins and his colleagues.

Mr Jenkins is to make a more detailed statement of Commission policy when he addresses the Parliament in February. Speaking for the governments of the Nine, Mr Anthony Crosland, the Foreign Secretary, and President of the EEC's Council of Ministers, tomorrow will outline to the Parliament a programme of work he hopes to see completed over the next six months.

Parliamentary report, page

# Berlin check on Bonn mission visits

From Gretel Spitzer

Berlin, Jan 11

Relations between the two German states were put to a new test today when East German authorities began to check, and in most cases turn back, East German visitors to the West German mission in East Berlin.

In addition to the usual guards, policemen were posted in front of the mission. They stopped East Germans on their way in and told them that they could enter only by permission of the East German Foreign Ministry.

Herr Günter Gaus, the head of the West German mission, informed Bonn and then called on the East German Foreign Ministry to point out that the East German interference was bound to lead to a deterioration in relations.

In Bonn, Dr Michael Kohl, the East German permanent representative, saw Herr Hans

Jürgen Wischnewski, the Minister of State for German Affairs, to protest against the measure. Dr Hermann Schmitt-Vockenhausen, vice-president of the Bundestag, who called on Herr Gaus today, said that the measure was a flagrant breach of the Helsinki accords.

The West German mission had contributed to the normalization of relations between the two German states since it took up work two and a half years ago, he told reporters.

Herr Gaus told reporters that he had complained to the East German Government already in December after noticing that visitors were occasionally subjected to controls.

Last year several dozen East German visitors a day were calling on the West German mission, in many cases applying for permission to move to West Germany.

The growing number of these applications has been a matter of grave concern for the East

German Government for some time.

Some sources put the number at 200,000. While this is likely to be excessive it seems certain that tens of thousands did apply. This was much more than the East Germans were prepared to allow to leave.

East Germany put much of the blame for this development on the western news media and especially West German television. The expulsion of Herr Lothar Loewe, the West German television correspondent just before Christmas must be seen in this context.

The three Western powers protested to the Soviet Government today about East Germany's decision to demand visas from foreigners entering East Berlin on one-day visits from West Berlin. The Allies said it undermined the quadripartite status of the city.

# Farm Commissioner makes London his first stop

From David Cross

Brussels, Jan 11

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the newly appointed European Commissioner for agriculture, is to make London his first port of call as he prepares for the two most urgent issues facing the Community—the spring farm price review and fisheries negotiations.

Mr Gundelach, who arrives in London tomorrow, will meet Mr John Silkin, the Minister of Agriculture, and Dr David Owen, Minister of State at the Foreign Office responsible for European affairs. The main aim of the talks will be to discuss strategy for the forthcoming farm price and fisheries negotiations among the Nine.

Mr Silkin has made it clear in recent weeks that he favours freezing Community farm prices in the coming year and that he will continue to resist any Community attempts to devalue the so-called "green pound," the unit in which British farm prices are expressed. Devaluing the green pound would push up British food prices and could in Mr Silkin's view, jeopardize the Government's social contract with the trade unions.

On the fisheries issue, Dr Owen will be looking for fresh progress in the present Community negotiations with non-

member countries like Norway and Iceland, as well as a solution to the share-out of fish resources among the Nine in the Community's new 200-mile zone.

Negotiations on farm prices promise to be particularly difficult, with consumer-oriented member states like Britain and West Germany probably seeking a virtual freeze and producer states like France and Ireland pushing for an average rise of at least 6.5 per cent.

Carried out already carried out by farm officials in the Commission suggests that farmers would need average rises of between 5 and 6 per cent to compensate them for cost increases in recent months.

Meanwhile, Britain's farming organizations, led by the National Farmers' Union, have been quick off the mark in making their presence felt with Mr Gundelach. In a long message sent to Brussels shortly after his appointment, Sir Henry Plumb, the NFU president, called for "resolute and vigorous action" to overcome the "formidable and complex problems" confronting member governments in the farm sector.

In a short reply published in Brussels today, Mr Gundelach said he had taken "careful note" of various points made by the NFU, which included an appeal for forthcoming price rises to take account of the substantial rise in agriculture costs during the past year.

# Prince is found dead with head wounds

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Jan 11

Prince Jean-Félix de Merode, a scion of one of the most ancient families of Belgium, was found dead with head wounds this morning on the staircase of the block of flats where he lived in the Latin Quarter of Paris. The police said he had presumably been attacked on the stairs.

The body was discovered, lying in a pool of blood, at 6 a.m. The prince was coatless and had the keys of his flat in his hand. He was found with his head wounds on the stairs.

Prince Jean-Félix de Merode, aged 34, was a bachelor. He inherited the family seat and 5,000-acre property at Trélon, in the Ardennes, in 1974 on the death of his father, Prince Philippe de Merode. He only rarely visited it.

The origins of the Merode family go back to the twelfth century, when a son of the King of Aragon married a Merode. The family played a leading role in the history of Belgium.

One of the prince's ancestors was a hero of the Belgium revolution of 1830 against Holland. Another refused the regency on the creation of the kingdom of Belgium, and played a key role in the accession of Leopold I, whose minister he was for many years.

# Jail term sought for banker

San Remo, Jan 11.—The public prosecutor today demanded a 9,000m lire (56m) fine and two and half years' imprisonment for Carlo Aloisi, an Italian banker, charged with attempted currency smuggling.

Signor Aloisi, vice-president of the private bank Istituto Bancario Italiano, was arrested at the French border on December 30. The prosecutor said that customs officers had found promissory notes worth a total of 2,700m lire in his briefcase.

Reuters.

OVERSEAS

# Dr Kaunda assures Mr Richard that guerrilla war will end once Salisbury regime is replaced

From Nicholas Ashford

Lusaka, Jan 11

President Kaunda of Zambia has given an assurance that the guerrilla war in Rhodesia will be halted as soon as an interim government acceptable to all parties in the conflict is established in Salisbury.

Mr Jvor Richard, chairman of the recessed Rhodesian settlement talks, told a press conference today before leaving Lusaka for Dar es Salaam that he had received the assurance during a meeting with Dr Kaunda last night. The President had explained that this was the meaning of the final paragraph of the statement issued after last weekend's summit meeting in Lusaka of the five "front line" states.

The statement said that the removal of colonialism, oppression and racism in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) would create conditions for peace and justice and "inevitably bring to an end the armed struggle."

This assurance is probably the most important achievement of Mr Richard's mission to date and has once again produced an air of cautious optimism among his party.

Coming after the "front line" states have openly aligned themselves with the Patriotic Front, which controls the guerrilla armies based in Mozambique and Zambia, it is the firmest assurance yet likely to be given by the black presidents and their nationalist allies that the war will stop if

acceptable settlement terms can be agreed.

Whether Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, and Mr Vorster, his South African counterpart, will accept such an assurance is another matter. Mr Richard said it was too early to assess what their attitude might be.

After his talks with President Nyerere in Dar es Salaam today Mr Richard is taking several days off to reflect on the progress of his mission before embarking on a new round of negotiations. He expects to visit again all of the six countries he called at during the first round of his shuttle as well as having further talks with the leaders of the Patriotic Front, Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo.

This means that the present negotiations will not be completed until towards the end of this month at the earliest and that the resumption of the Geneva talks will inevitably have to be delayed.

The main problem now facing him is how to establish some common ground between the Patriotic Front and Mr Smith's Government. So far neither side has shown any outward sign of shifting from its original position set out at the Geneva conference.

However, Mr Richard thought he had detected some movement on both sides. "I think there are signs that negotiations are possible," he said. The "front line" states

declared support for the Patriotic Front has been received in Rhodesia and

But Mr Richard did not regard this as an additional hurdle to his mission. By supporting one particular organization the states would be able to leverage their

would over a proliferating rival groups. Our Nairobi Correspondent writes: Mr Richard's hour's meeting with President Nyerere of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam this evening. He afterwards that Dr Nyerere had assured that the guerrilla war in Rhodesia would end once an acceptable interim government been set up.

Our Political Staff writes: reconvening of the Geneva conference planned for Monday is being delayed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, announced a written parliamentary

He said Mr Richard pressing on with his coraries in Africa and the coence would be established as he had established upon which it could meet a good prospect of success. Mr John Davies, the sh: Foreign Secretary, later pressed deep disappointment over the postponement. He urged him to adopt "a determined and vig approach."

# Accused mission priest feared for his life

From Michael Knipe

Salisbury, Jan 11

Father Paul Egli, a Swiss-born Roman Catholic priest, has pleaded guilty in Bulawayo to five counts of failing to report to the police the activities of guerrillas and harbouring terrorists.

According to an agreed statement of facts, on one occasion in October, a group of guerrillas made speeches to the assembled pupils and staff of Father Egli's mission school at Berea, in the Chibi tribal trust land south of Fort Victoria. Father Egli also made a speech and said the Lord's Prayer. The guerrillas then danced and sang before leaving with a supply of food.

In a statement made after being warned and cautioned by the police, the 45-year-old priest, who has been in Rhodesia 17 years, said: "I agree I have had knowledge with my mission staff of several guerrilla groups and that we assisted them when they appeared heavily armed, demanding medicines."

Father Egli then described one visit by the guerrillas to the school when 350 pupils were assembled with the staff near

the mission's swimming pool. He estimated that there were between 10 and 12 in the group and they impressed on him that to report them would mean certain death.

"I know I have assisted guerrillas but never actively or willingly. I think we would have done the same for the Army if demanded or forced to."

Father Egli's statement said he had no faith in the Government security forces to provide adequate protection.

Rhodesian troops exchanged gunfire today with armed men across the border with Botswana, according to a Rhodesian security forces communiqué.

There has been tension on the border for some months because of the activities of African nationalist guerrillas. One shot was fired yesterday from Botswana at a Rhodesian military position, but the Rhodesians did not retaliate.

Today, the communiqué went on, Rhodesian forces observed a buildup within Botswana of armed men at a kraal opposite their position. Later small arms and automatic fire was directed from Botswana at two Rhodesian officers' and the Rhodesian forces retaliated.

# Press kept away from Ciskei cam

From Our Correspondent

Johannesburg, Jan 11

At least a third of a 30,000 African refugees in the Transkei living in make camps in the Ciskei Bantu have been inoculated or vaccinated, it was claimed today. At the same time the C administration banned reporters from the area.

Yesterday, officials admitted that the mortality rate, among infants, from ga enteritis and other povr related diseases, was running around five a day. Unoff estimates were that 300 pe have died in the camps in past three months.

Dr Barbara Seidler, the qualified medical practitioner the area, is in charge of a n of 28 African nurses wor round the clock from a m: shift hospital at nearby Th: hill. The declining co: on the death toll.

There are between 30,6 and 50,000 people in the cam and the Ciskei administrat which has the responsibility maintaining public health in area, just does not have facilities to cope.

# Senator angers black Carter appointee

From Fred Emery

Washington, Jan 11

Confirmation hearings by the Senate committees of Mr Carter's Cabinet appointees got under way in a rush today in an attempt to have all the Cabinet approved by the time Mr Carter is sworn in on Thursday week.

There have already been some verbal fireworks. Mrs Patricia Harris, nominated for Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, has tartly reminded Senator William Proxmire of her origins. Just because she now worked for a leading Washington law firm did not mean she had forgotten them, she told the senator, who had asked whether she could still identify with the underprivileged.

"Senator, I am one of them," she snapped. "You do not seem to understand who I am. I am a black woman, the daughter of a dining car waiter. I am a black woman who could not buy a house eight years ago in parts of the District of Columbia."

She added that she also remembered being excluded from Senate dining rooms.

The greatest attention has focused on Mr Carter's nominee for Attorney General, Mr Griffin Bell, a former Federal Appeals Court judge from Atlanta. His hearing was broadcast live on radio and television today as he sought to defuse the torrent of criticism being prepared by civil rights organizations.

Mr Bell's peach-in-the-mouth thick Georgia accent and style makes Mr Carter sound like a Yankee. But he defended his self well, and managed a min coup by disclosing that he appointing a black man to the next Solicitor General Washington, Jan 11. Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State-designate and one America's leading policymakers during the Indo-China war, to the Senate foreign relations committee today that it United States had learnt from its mistakes in Vietnam.

"In the light of hindsight, believe it was a mistake intervene in Vietnam. However we have learnt a number lessons as a result of the Vietnam experience," he said. A nance was received enthusiastically by committee members and then indicated that nomination would be overwhelmingly approved.—Reut

# Objection in church as a lesbian is ordained

From Peter Stafford

New York, Jan 11

An objection was raised in a New York church last night when Miss Ellen Barrett, an avowed lesbian, was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church, the American branch of the Anglican Communion.

The Rev James Wattlely, an Episcopal priest, stood up when Bishop Gene Moore, conducting the ordination, asked the formal question whether anyone knew any impediment or crime which should prevent ordination.

Mr Wattlely walked to the altar and told the congregation that he opposed Miss Barrett's ordination "on the ground of her self-proclaimed lesbianism."

In the view of the church, homosexuality was "a sin against the order of the Creator and against the order of the Creation."

Miss Barrett, who was a member of the Episcopal Church, said that her personal life had never been under criticism.

He added: "Many persons with homosexual tendencies are present in the church since the reverse Soviet trends towards superiority which is detected over the past 16 years."

President-elect Carter arrives tonight among the protagonists for more briefings on national security and foreign policy both with the specialists and with congressmen, as a final prelude to his inauguration on Thursday week.

He has already suggested that too much fuss is being made by Mr Cyrus Vance, his designated Secretary of State, has suggested that both sides have vari-

ous systems superior to t others."

Dr Harold Brown, the incoming Defence Secretary, at opening of his informal consultation hearings before t Senate armed services committee today, sought to shift emphasis.

One of the world's leading experts on nuclear weapons (designed most of the American arsenal) Dr Brown said that debate about United States Soviet balance must be shifted to conventional forces. "V must pay attention to our conventional capability and make sure it enables us to carry out our foreign policy commitments."

Dr Brown said that it w not necessary to match eve weapons category the Russian thought up.

# Four more prisoners flee as Italian jail crisis worsens

From Our Correspondent

Rome, Jan 11

While warders of Rome's Rebibbia jail stayed in their barracks today in protest against a shortage of staff, four inmates of the Benevento prison, to the south, escaped in the fourth jailbreak this year.

The 350 warders confined themselves to barracks all last night and today, leaving only two on duty, to support their complaint that there are not enough of guards, supervisors, check parcels and supervise visits, the means by which firearms and escape aids

often find their way into the jails.

The situation is similar in nearly all Italian prisons, and the point was underlined by the four Benevento prisoners, who escaped undisturbed by the traditional method of sawing through the bars of their window and scaling the outside wall by means of a home-made ladder and knotted sheets.

Altogether 25 prisoners have escaped from Italian jails this year and 23 of them are still at large. Signor Andreotti, the Prime Minister, has indicated that recent jail reforms giving

prisoners greater freedom to telephone home, receive visits and parcels and go on leave, may have to be suspended.

The situation in the jails is only one aspect of the present crisis in the Italian justice system which, the chief prosecutor at the Rome Appeal Court reported, is even worse in the capital. Ninety-five per cent of crimes committed in Rome go unpunished, Dr Piero Pascualino said, compared to 75 per cent for the country.

He gave warning that justice in Rome would soon be completely paralysed if something was not done. The backlog of cases was such that each magistrate dealing with minor offences had an average of 604 cases pending. Each minor case, which should be heard within two weeks, was unlikely to come up for more than a year.

Dr Pascualino recalled that until recently the situation was periodically alleviated by amnesties, a system no longer acceptable. He said many crimes went unpunished now because the period in which they could be prosecuted had expired under the statute of limitations.

مكتبة من الأصل











THE ARTS

Original nightclub show

The sound of people, and the sound of their love of life, suffuses the Top of the Gate on Bleeker Street. The music and the people come from Nightclub Canasta, a revue by Elizabeth Swados that is the most original and perhaps the most pleasurable form of nightclub entertainment I have ever encountered. The situation is not a usual nightclub. It is more in the pattern of the *Jacques Brel Show*, but its accent, its manner and its atmosphere are quite different.

Miss Swados comes across as a force of nature. Previously I had encountered her only as a composer and musician for Peter Brook and Andrei Serban, where she was always unobtrusively, diligently but powerfully in the background. Now in her own show, which she has conceived, composed, directed, partly written and also appears in, she has moved out of the background for ever.

It is the music that hits one first. It opens with a song called "Things I Didn't Know I Loved", and there seems to be a dire danger of cuteness in the air. The danger is not precisely averted by a couple of numbers where the company imitates birdsong. Personally I hate people who try to sing like birds—even Amelia Galli-Curci. And these people subjugate all doubts. They were lovely.

What is fascinating about this *Nightclub Canasta* is simply its unique mixture of music, drama and pop entertainment. Miss Swados's own staging is a knockout—the actors are trained like human acrobats and her choice of source material, much of it written by herself, runs from Sylvia Plath to Frank O'Hara to Carson McCullers.

A lot of it is extraordinarily funny. A comic acrobat number called "The Pastors' Brothers" is hilarious—incidentally quite a few of Miss Swados's concepts come as much from the circus and vaudeville as from the jungle—and even in a corrosively bitter duet for sad lovers, called "Dibari", with words by David Ayden, the humour overrules the bitterness.

The cast of four men and four women, plus piano and percussion, is just about perfect. The names, in alphabetical order, are Karen Evans, Rocky Greenberg, Paul Kandel, Joanna Peled, Shelley Phoenix, David Schneider, Miss Swados herself and Mark Zagacki.

Miss Peled is clearly, if she wants, going to be a star. Miss Evans, a statuesque black woman, has an announcement that could crack a crystal glass and leave it glad. Miss Phoenix (of *Hair* repute) remains adorably remote, and Miss Swados herself looks and sounds like a wayward genius. But the men are fine too, as when David Schneider, the piano and William Milhizer handling percussion. For anyone wanting a show that is different, involved and engaging, and yet, on its own special terms, quite clearly cabaret, this is the show for you. I adored it. New York Times News Service.

Clive Barnes



Arthur Lismer: Moon River, Georgian Bay, 1931

Fresh from the wilderness

Paddy Kitchen

Men and women who emigrated to Canada at the beginning of this century usually went in search of adventure, fortune, and, above all perhaps, freedom from restriction—the restrictions of moribund conventions and confined spaces. Canadian painters of that period, however, were encouraged to ape dated European conventions, and to bottle up their infinite and emphatic hunters' landscape into pastoral tone-paintings. Inevitably a mood of rebellion developed, and a group, who later called themselves the Group of Seven, set out to look at their country afresh and develop a style which would honour its wildness and beauty. To judge from the exhibition of their work at the Canada House Gallery which opens today and runs until February 27, their shared stylistic influence was a kind of optimistic expressionism. The excited brush strokes and vivid paint do not dramatize nature in order to express man's dark passions; rather they are used as a means of describing a landscape which is already so dramatic, and so blatantly technical, that only a joyously fervid response could possibly convey its impact.

Equipped with small wooden panels packed into specially designed sketch boxes, some of these men set out to explore Algonquin Park (a 3,000 square mile wilderness) and the shores of Georgian Bay (an even larger lake wilderness) under the early leadership of Tom Thomson. As far as one of them, A. Y. Jackson, was concerned, Thomson succeeded in transforming the inhospitable country from "a desolation of brush and rock" into "a new world". Like hunters, they had to adapt to their surroundings. Thomson was drowned in 1917, but after the war Lawren Harris (who had built the Studio Building in Toronto where Thomson and others worked) organized two painting trips through the forests of Algonquin. He and three others rented a caboose, and they were shunted from one part of the territory to another by passing freight trains.

Out of these various expeditions, and the activities at Studio Building, grew the first exhibition by the Group of Seven in Toronto in 1920. Their aim was to create a uniquely Canadian tradition founded on their belief that art "must grow and flower in the land before the country will be a real home for the people". It would be interesting to know how would-be emigrants, visiting Canada House now, react to their work. Do the thick grazes of paint that represent the vitality of rushing water, the gleam-and-slide of sun on snow, the autumn that seem to be pink, green, ochre, red, orange, but never somnolent gold, still seem like a breath of fresh cultural air? If so, then perhaps they are sensing an essence, an invigoration, that the Seven wished to convey; and they may be assured that this quality has been honoured in Canada by most enlightened patronage.

In 1953, Robert and Signe McMichael started to build a home out of materials rescued from old barns and houses, hoping thus to make a suitable background for the Canadian art which they wished to collect. A painting by Thomson called *Pine Island* provided the spring of their ambition, and their original six-room house soon developed into a complex of galleries, set in a large nature reserve, which in 1965 were donated to the Province of Ontario. Uprooted from their carefully-created habitat, and transplanted to the anonymously metropolitan interior of the Canada House Gallery (just a stone's throw from the National Gallery), this small selection from their collection is now open to unpatronized scrutiny.

It includes the work of nine painters (the Seven plus Thomson and a later addition, A. J. Casson), none of whom—from this showing—a major artist, and all of whom seemed to work best on a small scale in the open air. Most of them are represented by a single large work and several smaller ones, the former being careful studio paintings in which waterfalls tend to rigidify and trees become artistic rather than expressive. But if one moves

closely in front of the three dozen or so small paintings (usually under a foot square), they do have an extremely powerful effect. F. H. Varley's stormy version of *Georgian Bay*, A. Y. Jackson's *Agawa River* where the wood panel gleams between the painted green and yellow reflections; Frank Johnston's sentinel trees behind *Moose Pond*; Lawren Harris's clouds—white paint squashed like crushed ribbon; Arthur Lismer's *Moon River* where a pine has a trunk of emperor purple; Frank Carmichael's verdant *Spring Garland*; A. J. Casson's austere *Norval*; Tom Thomson's birch trunks casting halftone snow shadows; and J. E. H. MacDonald's *Eve's apples in his Artist's Home and Orchard*, all combine to affect the onlooker with a powerful spirit of place. And the last two painters in particular were extremely skilful in manipulating intense energy and almost-impossibly-glorious colours within a very small area.

All the paintings are displayed in conventionally smart frames. A poster shows a few of them hung, unframed and close together on the weathered boards in one of the McMichael galleries. I would judge they probably look better that way. They are, above everything, fresh; as though the artists had returned from Algonquin Park or Algonia with their sketch boxes only yesterday.

You look carefully around you can find all the incredible amount of variety and joy and sheer fascination. Take the fifth Lord Byron who was a great uncle of the poet and used to re-enact great sea battles on his private lake until he grew older and closer together on the weathered boards in one of the McMichael galleries. I would judge they probably look better that way. They are, above everything, fresh; as though the artists had returned from Algonquin Park or Algonia with their sketch boxes only yesterday.

I went to watch the people who go cheerrolling in Gloucestershire, which is an amazingly one of the men who he did it and he said "for Jesus" only I thought he was saying "for cheese", so that conversation took a little time to sort out.

It was in 1963, by which time Allen had graduated from Butler's and worked his way through solo comic spots in strip clubs to an African tour with Sophie Tucker, that she suggested he might do better for himself in Australia. Taking Miss Tucker's advice he moved to Sydney, and soon thereafter got a nightly television chat show on which he first began to explore his fascination with the unusual.

There was a man there who electrocuted his fruit trees to make them grow—in the middle of a conversation in his living room he'd get up, throw a switch and the trees would go "aargh". Then there was a reformed alcoholic who'd found God and wanted to spread the message by writing "Eternity" wherever he went.

A ruined life

Eleanor Marx  
BBC 2

Alan Coren

There is an unsettling overture to Cyril Connolly's dictum that the prism in the hallway is the enemy of promise, and that is, of course, that the promise is the enemy of the prism. Who would choose to be the offspring of a great man? Few such remain neutral of their sires, most seem led either to inordinate love or hatred, and it is most which of the relationships is the preferable.

On Monday, in the first part of Andrew Davies's trilogy on her short, ruined life, Tussy Marx was yanked out of her bleak niche in sub-history and pushed to the centre of a stage which even then she could not hold, so dominated was she by the presence, both actual and imagined, of her extraordinary father. Initially, the involvement was not unhappy: as a child, she doted on Marx, and he on her, in a household buoyed up against poverty and struggle by a boisterous, almost Pickwickian gaiety.

But as Marx progressed in age and stature and, inevitably,

dissatisfaction, that cheery domination became crabbed and tyrannical, drawing Tussy, self-negating, ruinously devoted, ever deeper into its sphere of moody influence.

This might well have been an inert play, short as it was on action and long on discussion; but finely controlled performance from Lee Montague as the Protean Karl Marx, and from Jennie Stoller as Tussy, as moving in her thwarted eagerness for fulfillment in her own life as in her devotion to the role she was required to play in her father's, gave it a peculiar energy. Equally important, it succeeded for the most part in avoiding, as historical drama all too rarely does, the dangerous unintentional comedy inherent in the spectacle of great men scribbling what were subsequently to become clichés, and wondering whose turn it was to put the cat out; indeed, such was its success in conveying authenticity that I found myself accepting with untroubled lids Engels's request that everyone call him Fred. Script, production, design, were examples of restraint, and I look forward to the next two Mondays with much pleasure.

Tightrope walking

The Great Wall  
Greenwich

Irving Wardle

This "new revue with some of the old favourites" is a pretext for another evening with Max Wall, and its mistake is to assume that any pretext is needed. We may already have seen him changing from a society doctor into a fanged ghoul, causing a strangled moan out of his cornet, and caught with one arm too short in mid-Rachmaninov, but the one thing that can never be said of this performer is that you have seen it all before.

You may remember the gags but only Max Wall's that pile up endlessly in their wake. He repeats an Englishman, Scotsman and Jew story well known to Wall followers, but this time he makes a large meal of the Scot, building one delayed laugh after another, and finally throws the punch-line over his shoulder in mid-air. "You were 50 per cent", he remarks candidly at the end; and it seems to be the truth. He does depend on what is coming back; and I know of no performer who has the reputation of Lenny Bruce who walks such a tight-rope of actuality.

However, here he is with a supporting company of four, interrupting his own solo with songs and old sketches (authors uncredited) for which Mr Wall has a soft spot of them. They are quite fun: such as a conten-

tious Blackpool holiday party with Mr Wall as a squelched husband who confines his marital frustration to viciously snapping bits off his churchwarden pipe; or another in which he turns up as a conurer at a birthday party and liquidates the wretched darts as his final trick. That sketch also gives Petra Markham her chance as the bowdled monster child.

Her companions in John Link's production are Frank Barrie, David Ashworth and Sally Mates, all good performers, who periodically notch up a point for themselves: Mr Barrie as the leader of a hunt-ball glee chorus, Mr Ashworth in one of Stanley Holloway's "Sam" monologues. But only Max Wall's that pile up endlessly in their wake. He repeats an Englishman, Scotsman and Jew story well known to Wall followers, but this time he makes a large meal of the Scot, building one delayed laugh after another, and finally throws the punch-line over his shoulder in mid-air. "You were 50 per cent", he remarks candidly at the end; and it seems to be the truth. He does depend on what is coming back; and I know of no performer who has the reputation of Lenny Bruce who walks such a tight-rope of actuality.

Thereafter they appear in limp sketches while Mr Wall is off stage or with him in sketches that are entirely dictated by his own tricks of delay, digression or getting his finger jammed in somebody's pocket during their lines. They do not get much of a chance; but there is no argument with the show title.

Brahms's Liebeslieder  
Purcell Room

William Mann

We all know Brahms's Liebeslieder waltzes... or do we? They are not often performed in recitals, at least not as Brahms intended, by a warmly blended quartet of able, euphonious Lieder-singers with piano duet accompaniment. Monday's Kirkman concert on South Bank intelligently offered both sets and used the pianists, Martin Hughes and his wife Marlene Hargreaves, further to underline the (played from memory) four of Brahms's Hungarian Dances between them.

The vocal quartet consisted of Meryl Dwyer, Patricia Price, Alan Byers, and Richard Jaca. Dwyer, Byers and Price are new and rising reputes. Their voices blended nicely in gentle or mellow music, the lower voices standing out in appreciable perspective (varied in repeated passages) beneath Miss Dwyer's clear, pleasing soprano. In the more enthusiastic waltz-quarters their performance seemed to have been geared to a larger hall with a less fierce acoustic. Miss Dwyer's high notes developed a glare, and the others suffered too, including Brahms who surely intended an intimate, convivial atmosphere.

Dupré/Underwood  
Wigmore Hall

Joan Chissell

The young are in luck just now. Hard on the heels of the Park Lane Group's five concerts in the Purcell Room comes another series of three at Wigmore Hall sponsored by the Incorporated Society of Musicians presenting panel-selected aspirants. Monday's opening recital was shared by the pianist, Heather Dupré, and the baritone, Christopher Underwood, with Michael Hancock as partner.

An accident to her right arm caused Miss Dupré to make slight modifications in her programme. But though she was playing under a local anaesthetic, occasional inaccuracies in a Scarlatti sonata at the start seemed due more to nervousness than to carelessness. Her sonata, K330, which followed, her fingerwork was as neat as her tone and phrasing were dewy. Perhaps the finale was too deliberate, but the slow movement was flawlessly pure.

One hopes to be excused for thinking of them afterwards as four solo singers: Brahms devised his *Liebeslieder* to include solos, duets, even some concerted trio passages as well as homogeneous quartets. Mr Jackson with his firm yet supple bass, ready musicianship and assured interpretative manner, alone suggested the music's wit and sparkle, though tactfully he did not exaggerate them. The tenor, Mr Byers, quite powerful in quarters and always musically, sounded uncomfortably restrained in his solos; Miss Price's warm, attractive mezzo sometimes turned plummy. Honeyed legato singing was Miss Dwyer's forte, but her German pronunciation not always scrupulous.

Yet it was an enjoyable recital: partly because the music smiles and melts so affectionately and deviates from expectation so subtly, retreating home with magical prestidigitations; partly because the young performers knew and appreciated all that, even when awed by the occasion. The piano duetists were not musically always at one, the often perceptive, he never at a musical loss, their ensemble often inexact. Sociably they swapped positions for each work and sensibly the second, less familiar, set of *Liebeslieder* was performed before the first, which contains more memorable melodies, more captivating charm.

Despite a disconcerting slip or two (from left hand as well as right) in Chopin's C sharp minor Study, Op 25, and E flat Nocturne, Op 9, there was no mistaking the gentleness of Miss Dupré's musical intentions. Two legend-inspired pieces of her own composition were succinct and shapely as well as pianistically expressed and evocative. Instead of making an indiscriminate dip into Schubert, Finzi, Fauré and Ravel, Christopher Underwood chose the last songs of each composer, including (as a recent BBC pupil) Fauré's *L'HORIZON*, Chénier's *L'HORIZON*, and Ravel's *Don Quichotte à Dulcinée* cycles. His baritone voice had a serviceable range, though with its chief warmth and vibrancy lower down. There was less total charm in the higher reaches, especially above a certain dynamic level. As an interpreter Mr Underwood still seems in the stage of consciously trying to do the right thing by his composers, but the nearest to suggesting spontaneous, first-hand experience in Ravel's three songs, keenly characterized and contrasted, Michael Hancock also conquered inhibitions here.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

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Royal Yachting Association racing division. Vernon Sur was chosen unanimously chairman of the RYA Old committee.















Bernard Levin

# Enough of this crew: are there not ten just men to scupper the lot?

"Sometimes" says the disgruntled man in the Thirder cartoon to his wife, "the news from Washington makes me think that your mother and brother Ed are in charge." And sometimes the news from Westminster makes me think that Mr Callaghan, Mr Healey, Mr Foot, Mr Hattersley and the Labour Party's NEC are in charge, together with a rudimentary simulacrum of Mr Mulley, created in a clandestine laboratory by a mad scientist obsessed by the challenge inherent in the sheer difficulty of doing such a thing and unwilling even now to admit that it cannot be done.

But is there not something fascinating and hilarious, amid the sheer awfulness on the one hand and the rage provoked by the knowledge that it is our country that these clowns are destroying on the other, in the limitless series of *cocasseries* that now passes for government? There was widespread comment, when Parliament finally reeled away for the Christmas recess, to the effect that the break would enable our leaders to straighten out at any rate some of the sub-messes being dragged like trawls behind the principal ones, to reinvigorate themselves sufficiently to face, if not to solve, the problems piling inexorably up like waves, to do something, or even anything, to make the Prime Minister's fatuous complacency less obviously inexplicable on any hypothesis other than one postulating a total encephalopathy.

And what has happened? Things have actually managed to get worse! The nerveless folly that has been running through the Cabinet like the influence has now broken into a gallop; indeed, there is powerful evidence that the horses have altogether bolted. Take Mr Hattersley, for instance. Only yesterday he was spreading the butter on himself with a spatula large enough to hold two tons at a time, and leaping, thus anointed, into the centre of the stage, to tell the nation that, thanks to his cunning, negotiating skill, relentless devotion to the cause of the family shopping-basket and generally overwhelming claim to be the next Prime Minister but one, the price of bread was about to fall so fast and so far that every shop in the land, from the big-

gest supermarket to the tiniest one-man bakery, would be paying the customers enormous sums of money to come and take the stuff away, and even providing wheeled barrows to enable them to do so. Jack Cade himself could hardly have promised more.

There shall be in England seven halfpenny loaves sold for a penny; the three-hooped pot shall have three hoops, and I will make it felony to drink small beer. All the realm shall be in common, and when I am king there shall be no money; all shall eat and drink on my score; and I will apparel them all in one livery, that they may agree like brothers, and worship me their lord.

And then? Why, then he starts to blurt that it wasn't his fault, that it's all the doing of the delivery-men and their union, that if we will all hang on a bit longer and be ready to starve ourselves to death by way of protest just as soon as he gives the word it will all come right. Yet it is not the job of a minister to prevent or avoid the kind of perfectly foreseeable chaos that Mr Hattersley has created? Could not the attitude and intentions of the delivery-men have been ascertained in advance? What does he suppose that we pay him £13,000 a year for?

But the reason I draw attention to this fiasco is not just that I was told by Mr Hattersley; it is to offer further evidence that the disintegration of the Government is proceeding at an accelerating pace, and that Mr Callaghan's assurance that there will be a general election in 1977, should that assurance be struck with a blunt instrument (Mr Shore's head, perhaps) would now give off a hollow sound. And much the same conclusion must be drawn from the activities of several of Mr Hattersley's colleagues.

There is Mr Foot. Never mind his views for the moment; there will be time enough to consider them. But is there anything to match, for ineptitude, his conduct as Leader of the House of Commons? That, of course, is a question that could have been asked ever since he got the job; but it must be asked rather more urgently today in the light of the revelations about the Rent (Agriculture) Act, passed and promulgated in a form which does not correspond with what Parlia-

The nerveless folly that has been running through the Cabinet like the influenza has now broken into a gallop...

ment enacted. And why? Because, as Mr Hugh Rossi (who raised the matter) pointed out, an amendment which had come back from the Lords, and which was accepted by the Government, was put before the House of Commons in a form that was gibberish, and in that form had been "passed". And I put that word in quotation marks because in fact the House of Commons did not even see, let alone discuss, the legislation in question; Mr Foot was busy using the guillotine (it was only parliamentary democracy that was involved, after all), and he can hardly be expected to bother with seeing that Parliament passes measures that make sense. But he was hired to see that Parliament passes measures that make sense, and if he cannot even attend to an entirely formal and simple matter like that, is it any wonder that the parliamentary timetable, which is also his job but which requires genuine skill, is visibly collapsing?

Meanwhile, the NEC, fresh from insisting on the insertion into the Labour Party administrative machinery of a man cheerfully and intemperately determined to bring into being a form of society that would make all such machinery, and indeed political parties and Parliament itself, unnecessary (from much of the talk about revolution, anybody would think that Trotsky was some kind of democrat), are now demanding the abolition of the Second Chamber (preparatory, no doubt, to abolishing the First), and I have no doubt that Mr Callaghan will respond to this in much the same way as he responded to the previous NEC proposal to nationalize the banks and insurance companies. That is, he will be heard muttering to himself

for an hour or two, towards the end of which a few phrases will become coherent and audible. From these we shall learn that the principle is, of course, perfectly right and proper, and no member of the Labour Party could seriously dissent from it, but the press of intended legislation—devolution, you know—does make it difficult to see how it could be put in hand immediately, and then again, a good deal of discussion and consultation is essential before any legislation could be devised at all, so that on the whole, and of course with the warmest expressions of good will towards the proposal, which he certainly hopes and intends to see carried through in due course, it really will have to wait.

And for those we saw Harold Wilson pass, and welcomed a man whom we thought could at any rate be expected to know what principles were, even if he did not much go in for acting by them? But the press of intended legislation, of words and whistlings off-stage, setting of this group against that to preserve a spurious balance, setting the country short to buy a few more hours of office—this is what we have seen, and we are likely to have until we finally clear out this Government, from its leader to its lowest understrapper, and instead find, or at any rate seek, people who will turn their backs on the whole of the urgency to the increasingly necessary labour of fuming the Augean Stables, before facing the appalling task of cleansing them.

An honourable Labour MP cannot be at the further end of an expenditure on Britain's defence and at the reinforcement of his concern by the protests of the chiefs of staff, demands, reasonably enough, that the House of Commons shall be given an account of what they said, and adds: "I am not prepared to accept assurances from the Defence Minister, Mr Fred Mulley"; as far as I can see, nobody but me has noticed the inescapable implication of his words, let alone been aroused by it. Nor is that really surprising: Parliament is not seriously expected to believe what it is told by the Government, and there is no reason to suppose that it does. But is there in its inaction for concern? And matter, too, for demanding an end to the degradation, the broken will, the helpless fumb-

ling with anything that can keep going the pretence that the Government knows what it is doing and even what it is going to do? "What got it wrong, but we are getting it right", squeaked Mr Healey only the other day, going on to tell much the same tale over the latest prop showed under this country by kind and generous allies and helpers who will shortly receive the reward usually considered appropriate in such circumstances by this Government and governing party, which is, of course, the Labour Party, coupled with a demand for more of it. As Lord Carrington pointed out when the IMF loan was finally gathered in, and might well point out even more forcefully now that yet another support for the pound has been arranged in the form of yet another massive handout, nothing has changed in the attitude of Britain—in her ability to produce enough to pay her bills, in the condition of her industries, her management, her labour-force, in her attitudes to herself and her place in the world, in her recognition of the real dangers and evils that threaten her. We are exactly the same country as we have been, except that we are now more thousands of millions of pounds in debt.

Enough! Enough of a crew that combines men and women who have forgotten what patriotism means with others who never knew! Enough of government by cheating and dodging. Adding and deceiving! Enough of ignoring terrible dangers in the hope that the country can be prevented from noticing them long enough for those who ignore them to creep back into office!

Enough of the whole pack of them—Mrs Williams as well as Mr Benn, Mr Mason as well as Mr Shore, Mr Dell as well as Mr Crosland. This must be the year in which 10 just men are elected to the House of Commons, and the Government without first making sure that there is no danger of their succeeding in doing so. If it is not to come, it will be not to come, it will be not to come; if it is not to come, it will be not to come; if it is not to come, it will be not to come. On that side of the House of Commons to speak for England?

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Self-help in action: the voluntary group Contact brings comfort to pensioners.

## Let the welfare state help those who help themselves

Thirty years ago the welfare state seemed a phoenix out of the ashes of the Second World War. To many it symbolized the dawning of a new era, a panacea for all evils with benefits for all. Even if it may not have quite the fairy tale expectations, none the less it has satisfied a wide area of need and provided services to a large number of people. But as it developed it started to encroach on a number of points in our daily lives, so much so that an increasing number of people are now dependent on support from "the welfare" and cannot determine their own destiny without outside help.

The main function of a welfare state is to provide general security, a safety net for social casualties, and special provisions for those who can no longer look after themselves through physical or mental disability. Yet as state provision has intervened into more areas of our daily lives, it has robbed people of any logical reason as to why they should fend for themselves. Independence and initiative have been sapped, weakening the character. Many have now lost any sense of obligation either to themselves or to others. As a result of shifting the load of responsibility from family to state shoulders, people have become more inclined to opt out. By diverting a sense of obligation towards the state, the welfare state has undermined the foundations of our society.

This point was made tellingly by Prince Philip in a speech last month, when he pointed out that individual excellence had been levelled down into a world of generality by the welfare state.

This is as much the fault of misdirected state philanthropy as the misguided response of government to the clamour from minority groups demanding increased provisions. It is not surprising that successful generalizations have grown up to believe that government helps those who shout loudest and longest.

In the mid-sixties the parameters of the welfare state reached their limits. By 1969 local authorities were unable to find sufficient funds to put into effect the provisions of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Act. A year later the Chronically Sick and Disabled Act instructed local authorities to find and help the physically handicapped. This has been implemented by only a handful of authorities. Since then there have been numerous official reports recommending increased social provisions and more public expenditure.

At the same time, Britain's 8,000,000 pensioners live longer as a result of improved health facilities, but the domiciliary services they need to keep them out of institutional care are inadequate.

All in all the welfare state cannot cope with the strains imposed on it. As Mr Healey's chroniclers round the neck of the phoenix, its life expectancy must be limited. New ways of caring for people without incurring huge public expenditure must be found. So we must look to the family, friends and neighbours to see what they can all do for one another. At the same time the local authorities must define the limits within which they wish to work and the statutory services they will operate in the future. Local voluntary

organizations can then see whether they can take on functions previously exercised by the public bodies. Instead of the local authority home help service paying the official rates and bringing in women from all over the district, the neighbourhood voluntary groups could recruit local mothers on a part-time basis to look after one or two neighbours. The service would be cheaper and better. There would be no travel costs. Remuneration rates would not be subject to union negotiations and the help given would be by neighbour to neighbour.

If the meals on wheels service were run on a locality basis, recruiting local volunteers to help with preparation and delivery, a more personal and flexible service would result. Local organizations could offer supper as well as lunch, and for the home-bound, a seven-day and not just a five-day service could be provided at less than half the cost. For years the WRVS has been contracting its meal services. Our aim should be to expand them. It would be both socially and cost effective for the local authorities to give up the expense of maintaining a large fleet of vehicles when there are organizations such as Community Transport, run largely by volunteers who maintain their own fleet, for the benefit of the locality. Young people could earn pocket money from the local authority for tackling jobs which grandmothers might have done for their elderly or infirm grandparents but which are now done by their full-time paid staff.

Tried models for neighbourhood care in urban areas are numerous. In Liverpool ward (population 6,500) 44 voluntary "block" and "street councilors" keep an eye on the 800 old people, the handicapped, and young children at risk. Eleven mothers, employed part-time, coordinate the operation. Those living alone receive at least a weekly visit. Those with special needs benefit from daily contact. In this way local authority services are freed, specialist help being brought only in an emergency. The cost of running this programme is equivalent to the salaries of three trained social workers and administrative support. To shift the responsibility back to the individual and away from the state it would be necessary to turn to some of the 120,000 registered voluntary charities as sources of help for the community and neighbourhood groups.

In the past five years some 400 new self-help styled organizations have come to life on Merseyside aimed at encouraging self-help. This kind of community work is an important development in the way that we care for ourselves and our neighbours. Its purpose is to help people to the point where they can help themselves rather than just provide things for them.

However, it is not just underutilized resources but attitudes that need changing. Parents automatically turn to the state for the education of their children, expect the juvenile courts to deal with them when they are anti-social, the probation service to reform them. They see the local authority as the housing benefactor, the social services as the all-provider.

The most effective way, therefore, of switching from dependence to independence is to provide a minimum slice of

the financial cake nationally and locally to voluntary organizations.

If a permanent formula provided a minimum percentage from public funds to non-voluntary services, say, from support grant, this would have the effect of raising the and the potential of local munity and voluntary effort.

Although officials waxed about the complementary of voluntary work, they always markedly less enthusiastic when the volunteer for cash or highlights an of neglected need. It is for reason it would be advantageous, once the size of the stake had been agreed, the voluntary organizations to be named how it should be shared among this number.

There are a number of cedemes which show that governments give local authorities the opportunity to give voluntary work or to their effort, the local authority favour their own first, the Hon's share.

This can be seen from waning Urban Aid Program as well as the Job Creation Programme—a good example where the public authority have cornered the market flooding Areas with Comm with applications.

Yet voluntary organizations offer something special, a peculiar mixture of individual services, combining flexibility of approach ability to get things done with smaller and less bureaucratic administration at more caring and compassionate approach. Voluntary work is important as it provides alternative to total domination in community social provisions. As important to all this is the fact that voluntary organizations are cost well as socially effective. Liverpool the cost of providing groups is 25p a unit child a day, for the voluntary organizations, as against 35p unit per child a day, for authority. In youth voluntary organizations, as against 1p clubs at nearly half authority costs for similar vision. While the local authority spends £50 a week to look at a child in care, similar service provided by a voluntary organization costs only £22.

By pushing back the growing tide of state intervention in our lives, we can start to play his part in building that kind neighbourhood in which would like to live. The reorganization of local government inadvertently caused irreparable damage by shifting administration to a remote impersonal bureaucracy.

The Conservative Party committed to reducing interference in our lives. It is important; something positive is needed. I believe major plank of our party's programme should be the reformation of the importance family and the need to promote community work on an individual basis as has been previously. Only then will individual feel that his social contribution is important new phoenix be seen in on the horizon.

Anthony St

The author is Conservative for Liverpool, Wavertree.

## Can Dr Soares find the answers to get his fragile government through the year?

Portugal remains a country of strong social and regional contrasts and the minority Socialist Government of Dr Mario Soares has no alternative in 1977 but to seek to establish the highest common denominator of national interests.

As the recent parliamentary debate on this year's economic plan and budget made painfully clear, the search goes on for a viable economic model in a country where a basic consensus simply does not exist. The peaceable nature of the Portuguese people softens but cannot alter this fact.

The United States has just had to approve a \$300m emergency loan to prevent Portugal's foreign exchange reserves from running dry this month. But despite the extremely grave economic situation, the Socialists have come a long way.

Politically they have learnt by making mistakes to adapt from being, during 1975 and the first half of last year, the party of opposition to a minority party in government.

"This liberty is all a big problem", a Lisbon shopkeeper confessed to me. "Economically we decline because people will work less." To restructure Portugal's post-colonial economy, the West is still combating the effects of multiple oil price increases would be a difficult task for a new democracy whatever political party were in power.

The governing Socialists have taken badly the Social Democrats' vote against the economic

plan and now accuse the chief opposition party of going back on their "road to socialism" pledges given approving the constitution last year.

It is not only that Dr Francisco Sa Carneiro and Dr Soares disagree temperamentally and each wants to lead the country in different directions, Portugal, or that their eventual rapprochement would split the constituency parties of both formations. It is that the two parties' economic models are presently, though not inevitably, at loggerheads.

Dr Sa Carneiro, with his upper middle class, northern Portuguese background, represents forces committed to defending private enterprise in a part of the country which, unlike the Lisbon industrial region, essentially escaped intact the wave of revolutionary nationalization. Politically speaking, the more conservative Centre Democrats (CDS) are today in the north to the left of Dr Sa Carneiro's followers.

The Socialist Government's present economic team, by contrast, is led by Senhor Antonio Sousa Gouveia, Minister of Planning, and his state secretary, Dr Manuel Da Silva, who are not Marxist socialists but—some would say, more doctrinaire—left-wing Catholics deeply revolted by the social effects of the raw capitalism of the Salazar era.

They, and their critics, have found, however, that it is difficult to quantify the "social

costs" of production, and that their "humanistic" approach makes it difficult to allow the price mechanism to work efficiently. Prominent Portuguese businessmen still in the private sector, grouped into the Confederation of Industry (CIP), have rejected their economic plan because it does not give priority, with a series of tax concessions and revaluation of assets, to private investment to bring about economic recovery.

Such men attack the Socialists' model, with central planning based on control of investment decisions and credit, as incompatible with Dr Soares's intention to seek EEC membership. The dispute over credit facilities controlled by the wholly nationalized banking sector is vital, for while the mentality behind the French Socialist's deposit banks is wholly acceptable to them, Portuguese businessmen hold that the country's senior bank officials are today anti-private enterprise on principle.

Dr Soares's Socialist Party is, however, really at present consolidating the nationalized sector, reducing the big deficit—the banks, cement, and paper pulp made profits last year—while simultaneously trying to restore the basic market economy.

Behind the \$300m emergency loan is a \$1,500m international operation, by which the Americans as being managed through the International Mon-

etary Fund to try to turn around Portugal's economic situation, where last year the balance of payments deficit, after compensating financing arrangements, meant a foreign exchange cost of \$500m and a trade deficit estimated at more than \$1,600m.

The quid pro quo for this foreign indebtedness looks, on an informed guess, like being a change to a more realistic government economic team, higher interest rates, a sharp devaluation of the escudo (after the ineffective floating down), and more sales of Portugal's gold reserves. The Germans, second biggest partners in the loan, would prefer to see a better foreign investment guarantees.

All these measures will surely generate some domestic and party controversy—and Dr Soares has called an emergency Socialist congress, involving policy decisions, later this month. But against this an invigorated economic team would improve his image before next month's round of consultations in the EEC capitals about eventual membership.

Portugal has an "unorthodox" economy, and this with IMF experts' advice on future measures. If, for instance, devaluation would help Portugal's tourism and swell Portuguese emigrant workers' payments back home, exodus of Silverdale imports of equipment and materials, and the demand

curve for its exports is so inelastic, the end result is unacceptably low, by aggregating the already declining popular living standards, would generate labour unrest easily captured by the communist trade unions.

There is no foreseeable alternative to Dr Soares's approach of making haste slowly towards Portugal's economic recovery, and this is the rationale of the international loans—provided they go into the productive sector.

President Eanes, who is likely to take an increasing day-to-day interest in the economic problem, is known to disapprove of the Socialist's recent tactics because that helps the Communists, but he also wishes to see the Socialists behaving more pragmatically. A start might be made taking up a Socialist Democrat suggestion to jointly negotiate an austerity programme.

Dr Sa Carneiro, however, after his party's local government election success, dreams of a big Socialist Democrat party should the Socialists collapse under economic crisis.

Instability could be a suicidal risk all the same for Portugal's Democrats. A young Portuguese historian asked pointedly last month whether it had not been the inability of the country's ruling classes to govern themselves this century which led to military-backed dictatorships.

Richard Wigg

## The Times Diary

### Encyclopaedia for an age of vision

The trouble with the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, according to James Mitchell, is that there are too many words in it. What we need, in this age of television, is an encyclopaedia with pictures—thousands and thousands of them. Mitchell has produced just that.

On Monday night the book-sellers of Cambridge, who might be thought a conservative and hard-headed bunch, were invited to the best hotel in town for the first public showing of what the publishers like to describe as the first international encyclopaedia in the history of the world. In the best tradition of encyclopaedias, it comes with a hard sell and some formidable claims for itself.

James Mitchell and his partner John Beazley left the publishing house of Nelson in 1969 and set up on their own, operating with success in the field of lavishly illustrated books, including Patrick Moore's *Atlas of the Universe* and *John's World Atlas of Wine*. But they always wanted to do a set of encyclopaedias, and it

was Moore, whose sharp astronomical eye can also spot a good business, that at several light-years' distance, who suggested the format.

Encouraged by the success of one of their previous productions, *The Joy of Sex*, Mitchell and Beazley have called their ten-volume set "The World's Essential Knowledge within one library" *The Joy of Knowledge*. Like the previous work, it relies heavily on the explicitness of its 10,000 illustrations and diagrams.

Mitchell and his team explained the making of their great work to the book-sellers with the aid of slides, illustrating how each double-page spread, with its lavish colour illustrations, tells a complete story, be it "Trains and buses" or "How an automobile works".

Publication of the first two of the ten volumes in March has involved three years of concentrated work by a huge team of artists and eminent contributors. The final stage was to give the finished work to an independent panel of experts,

who were paid £1 for every mistake they could find. One woman had a Spanish holiday on the proceeds; they had got rather a lot of Latin spellings wrong.

The publishers are specially proud of the fact that they have already recouped their £3 million investment by selling the rights for 14 foreign editions, some of them to illustrious competitors. Britannica has bought partial American rights, and Larousse is to bring out a French translation.

Further respectability has accrued by the appearance at the end of each volume of Lord Butler, Master of Trinity, who wrote a glowing preface on condition that no underhand methods were used to sell the sets. Mitchell and Beazley are seriously avoiding door-to-door enterprise and are selling only through bookshops.

Mitchell described the work as "a crusade to make general knowledge exciting again". His managing director Ken Banerji exhorted the book-sellers to "get down to love the books and the fact in love with them".

The book-sellers, who were quite impressed, got down to feeling the specimen volumes. John Cheshire of Heffers found them "very attractive indeed". He thought that making the books available as at a time was a double-edged weapon. "It will help my customers to

who were paid £1 for every mistake they could find. One woman had a Spanish holiday on the proceeds; they had got rather a lot of Latin spellings wrong.

This obfuscation, spotted on a bottle of corn oil by a Hove reader, brings home the necessity of taking your pocket calculator with you to the supermarket.

be able to buy them individually at £1.50, and I can publicise each one as it comes out. But obviously it is better to be able to sell a complete set for £125.

The publishers have thought of that too. Buy nine, and you get the tenth one free. And, of course, easy terms can be arranged. You don't understand the easy terms? Don't worry: there should be a diagram to explain it in one of the later volumes.

### HMSO

At the Design Centre yesterday, there was great bustle and excitement around the small exhibition of Silver Jubilee souvenirs. Reporters, photographers and cameramen jostled and tripped over wires, lights and tripods. Such is the glamour of the royal event that many of the reporters missed entirely the far more interesting display upstairs.

This was devoted to the varied and mostly impressive work of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Apart from printing Her Majesty's stationery—and that of her ministers—the office performs a variety of functions that keep the mills of government grinding, the people instructed and entertained.

The first thing you see is a selection of their books, a catholic range of titles including *Know your Broadleaves* and *Wind Environment and Buildings*. Next we learn that HMSO produces rag dolls, rises for official eyes, and referendum statements in Welsh and Gujarati.

The most curious display is of 3,600 ball-point pens, strung neatly on a frame. This is the number of pens HMSO is required to supply to its customers every working hour. For those who enjoy such statistics, the office revealed that our government departsments get through half a million balls of twine a year—and that I suppose, does not include the millions needed to string up 3,600 ball-point pens.

No detail is overlooked. Civil servants looking for something in which to carry their ball-point pens and magnificently designed official forms will soon have a coordinated range of hand baggage, commissioned

by HMSO to replace the present non-uniform attaché cases. When I left, there were still crowds milling around the jubilee displays, gawking at the corgi coat rack and the numerous mugs. I believe that one of the troubles with this country is that it has too many mugs. I have dozens too many at home, decorated with nursery rhymes, signs of the zodiac, and extracts from *The Times*. On the other hand, I never have enough ball-point pens.

### Role-playing

How did Eleanor Bron, on Monday night, come to be lecturing a roomful of architecture students about how to become an actor? The complex logic of the event originated last year when Josia Reichardt organized a series of lectures for the Architectural Association at which hardly anyone turned up.

That set her wondering how, if students did not go to lectures, they would ever learn anything. And that gave her the idea for a series of lectures called "Feeding the mind, or how do we learn?" Miss Bron was the first, and did at least achieve the aim of filling all the seats.

The actress, best known for her work in television satire, wanted an informal setting,



more a seminar than a lecture. So they placed the audience of a hundred or so in a semi-circle round her. Wearing a tangerine suit, a burgundy wool shawl and lots of silver things round her neck, she propped herself on the back of her chair and began her talk—"How do we learn to be somebody else?"

with three faintly theatrical jokes. Things improved after she is an intelligent type who knows how to interact audience, even if some of reasoning was a little intri-

An actor, she maintained, not learn to be someone he learns to give the impression of being someone.

Maybe because in real Miss Bron is very much like characters she plays, some the questions after returned to the question of far actors put themselves their roles. "Everyone is little mini-play most of time," she mused. "Art- gress on for about two hours but life goes on for ages."

Next week's lecture called: "How do we learn in two days if we James Bond?" and the s ends on March 14 with a by an artist and psychol- on: "How do we learn by clothes she takes off? I forward to some gr improved architecture in 1980s.

Inflation has caught up with January sales at Chiswick Lewisham, whose advertisement in the South East London *Kenish Mercury* adverti "Pierre Cardin ties—norm £3.95—sale price £6.95."

PI





## THE FUNDAMENTALS REMAIN

The new safety net scheme for sterling announced from Basle on Monday night is not the millennium. But it is a thoroughly sensible measure to deal with a real, though limited, problem. It is also something of a modest triumph, both for the Prime Minister who last October publicly proclaimed his intention to secure such an arrangement over the heads of a sceptical, even hostile Treasury and Bank of England, and for constructive international cooperation.

The curse of the sterling balance has been that when they were causing trouble and the pound was weak, as either a cause or a consequence, nothing could be done about them, and that when the pound was strong no one was minded to do anything about them. This deadlock has been broken, partly by the greater realism of government economic policies and partly by the political will and far-sightedness of Chancellor Schmidt.

The main justification for the greater strength of sterling now is not the safety net scheme as such, but partly the Government's correction of the monetary policy last summer and partly the correction of exaggerated pessimism last October. But just as it was wrong then to extrapolate the pound's weakness in a straight line to early extinction, so it would be wrong now to extrapolate the improving tone on a straight line to limitless uplands.

None of the fundamental problems of the British economy have changed. Indeed, in one important way they are augmented. If, as appears to be the intention, the Government has been constrained by the creditor governments of the Group of Ten countries putting up the \$3,000m safety net to undertake to convert the existing official balances into foreign currency bonds which will then be repaid in cash within ten years, the United Kingdom will have to

earn an extra \$3,800m or so in balance of payments surpluses over that decade.

If this extra balance of payments surplus on current account is achieved, about a third of 1 per cent of national output that would otherwise have been available each year for investment or consumption at home will be forfeit. This is not in itself a large amount; but even smaller amounts have caused difficulty in the past.

If the extra surplus is not achieved then the repayments of the converted sterling balances will have to be financed by other borrowing abroad; and that other borrowing may or may not turn out to be less onerous than the form of finance provided by the sterling balances themselves.

In other words the course on which the Prime Minister has embarked is right, but stony. The Basle agreement is thus anything but an occasion for relaxation, except perhaps relaxation of tension. It actually increases, albeit modestly, the balance of payments surpluses we shall need to earn over the next ten years; and that cost cannot just be written off as yet another charge against the already heavily ear-marked fruits of the North Sea.

For this reason governments will have to resist not merely the temptation to ease fiscal and monetary restraints on spending, but also the temptation to allow the pound to appreciate too strongly if and when returning confidence and the expected improvement in the current account promotes such a tendency. If something like \$3,800m in foreign exchange is going to be needed by the mid-80s to pay off converted sterling balances, then extra reserves must be built up to that level over the intervening years. Otherwise Mr Callaghan's successful diplomacy and President Ford's and Chancellor Schmidt's acts of faith will be betrayed.

When the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection was created to usher in the new era of fearless promotion of fair trading practices, consumers were promised vigorous action against anyone who dared tamper with their interests. It is, therefore, disappointing to see a minister of the abilities of Mr Roy Hattersley contriving a situation so totally counter to his Whitehall brief.

The spectacle of the small United Road Transport Union quite openly forcing supermarkets to observe prices for bread higher than if consumers were allowed to exercise their free choice is an amazing one. It is largely of Mr Hattersley's own making, given the history of intervention on trade discounts; the responsibility for correcting what the Consumers' Association has told the TUC's general secretary, Mr Len Murray, is an "arrant disregard for consumer interests" rests with the Government.

Unlike a normal Commission reference, the Government does not even need to determine prima facie whether a monopoly situation and related restrictive practice exists. It is difficult to see the URTU objecting if it

really believes its actions are designed to protect the public interest, defending the corner shop suppliers of bread against the supermarkets. Let them test their arguments before an independent commission which is deeply concerned with fair trading behaviour and, indeed, is at present enquiring into the bread and flour supply industry.

As the law stands, it is not open to the Office of Fair Trading to refer a restrictive labour practice, and the power to order the necessary inquiry rests solely with the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

## Amending India's constitution

From the High Commissioner for India

Sir, How good it would be if the cobbler would stick to his last! I have great respect for Mr Levin's views on Wagner; I have much less for his views on the Indian Constitution. I doubt that he has read any of the 395 Articles of the Constitution or any of the 59 clauses of "the Legislation". I do not write on Wagner; I wish he did not write on the Indian Constitution.

His two articles (January 5 and 6) to which your distinguished newspaper has given such prominent hospitality are *deja vu*. They repeat, accepting as gospel, what Mr Kamath, a Socialist member of the Opposition, has said publicly in India almost in his own words.

It is not possible within the confines of a letter to controvert point by point Mr Levin's interpretation of "the Legislation". The thrust, with which alone I shall deal, of Mr Levin's argument, enhanced by your headlines, is that "the Legislation" is designed to make Mrs Gandhi a dictator because it enhances the powers of the Legislature—not the Executive—and reduces that of the Courts.

What "the Legislation" in fact does is to restore to the Indian Parliament some—only a fraction—of the supremacy which the British Parliament has and which some of the enormous powers of the Indian judges which British judges never had. If the British Constitution does not make Mr Callaghan a dictator, how does an amended Indian Constitution which still leaves Mrs Gandhi with much lesser powers make her one?

Mr Levin refers to Mrs Gandhi's majorities as "tame". Why? Are they any tamer than those of Mr Callaghan or Mr Schmidt? Even Mr Kamath would not deny that Indian elections have, so far as there have been free and fair. True it is that there are still a handful of legislators under detention—but there are none for their political views or their voting record; only for their un-aided constitutional activities.

The infamous Keshavnand Bharti case decided by a majority of seven judges to be the "basic structure" of the Constitution could not be amended by the constitutional processes clearly stated in Article 356 of the Constitution.

What the "basic structure" was, nor what the method of amending it was, they were not pleased to indicate. That is why the "Legislation" makes it clear who has the power to amend the Constitution. It is not the Prime Minister—it is wholly incorrect that she can change it by decree—but Parliament alone with a two-thirds majority. The powers of the judges have been curtailed but their independence safeguarded because their tenures are secure. It is really a step towards dictatorship to transfer power from the nobleness of the Chief Executive to a life peerage, as Mr Fletcher-Cooke's letter (January 4), as one of the original life peers, whose creation was announced in a Gazette connected with any "Honours List", it was perfectly clear at the time that the Life Peerages Act, 1958, was designed to increase the number of people willing, and able, to apply themselves to the work of the Second Chamber rather than only to reward past service.

Admittedly, when I accepted the office of a life peerage, I took the view that the hereditary system was "on the way out", but it did not take many years of experience in Parliament for me to become convinced that this was in fact an acceptable system, sure that comparatively young and vigorous members of independent mind are available (whatever their party allegiance, if any) to take a substantial part in the serious business which seems increasingly to fall upon the Second Chamber, and I did not envisage a total cessation of the creation of hereditary peers as marks of service to the state.

But so long as he would have us believe that Germany's prosperity comes from following his prescriptions, I must respectfully set the record straight.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH JOSEPH, Director,  
Centre for Policy Studies,  
8 Wilfred Street, SW1,  
January 11.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The right of trial by jury

From The President of The Law Society

Sir, It is too much to hope that the cogency and wisdom of your leader of January 6 will influence those who are hell-bent on restricting the right to trial by jury. The Bill before Parliament reflects the modern tendency in Whitehall for administrative and economic reasons, to implement the worst and eliminate the best from the reports of Committees. Those tried before magistrates, as The Law Society has repeatedly pointed out, are denied the right to be tried in a court of law, and knowing in advance the case they have to meet. The recommendations of the James Committee in this respect are not pursued.

The fundamental weakness of their Report was that they were prepared to recommend reductions in the right to trial by jury, which was largely in the name of reference, the opportunity to determine which was the more fair and just method of trial.

I have long applauded the valuable contribution which the magistracy makes to the administration of justice. Forty years' experience of the operation of the criminal courts, however, has convinced me and the Council of The Law Society, that lay magistrates in general, and stipendiaries in particular, should not be given an exclusive jurisdiction in all charges of petty theft such as shoplifting, or in charges of assault on or obstruction of the police, in indecent assault and importuning. Whilst a number of such cases might safely be left to them, there are a significant number in which, because justices tend unlike juries, to be case hardened and more legalistic, justice is denied.

The James Committee was established for the purpose of devising means of reducing the expense and congestion of the higher courts. This was largely if not entirely a London problem and ignores the problems of delay in the magistracies courts themselves.

The further restriction now proposed only extends a fundamental weakness in our system of justice, namely that jurisdiction in the courts is based not on the seriousness, complexity or difficulty of any particular case, but, in general, on the amount of money involved. The two things are not always synonymous. As the James Committee itself observed: "Monetary value is not always a realistic guide to the gravity of the offence."

This is a further step in an all too familiar direction. Once again, expediency becomes a substitute for justice and freedom dies another death.

Yours very truly,  
DAVID NAPLEY,  
President's Room,  
The Law Society's Hall,  
Chancery Lane, WC2,  
January 10.

From Miss Joyce Purser  
Sir, If the arguments in your leader of January 6, opposing the restriction of certain cases to the magistracies courts, are valid, then the implications for the future of those courts is serious. If it is indeed true that magistrates "suffer from the blunders of their largely white middle class membership" and are "not to be accepted uncritically, evidence given by the police", and that "a wrongful conviction is more likely in a magistracy court" then surely the pressure should be to remove as many cases as possible from these grossly unsatisfactory tribunals, leaving

minutes by minute, the tracks of every hostile aircraft that crossed over Coventry, and these identifications by the Observer Corps were very accurate. A preliminary "yellow" warning was given if possible 20 to 30 minutes in advance to police, railway and a few other HQs. The final "red" warning, on which the sirens were sounded, was given when a raid was 10 or 15 minutes from, and pointing at, a likely objective.

On the night of the Coventry raid I myself counted some 150 raiders crossing the Dorset coast and proceeding north on a "beam" for Coventry at two or three minute intervals. Others came in over the Essex coast on another beam. I feel sure that Coventry received the maximum possible warning once the raiders were seen to have crossed the coast and to be heading for that city.

It was an unpleasant and unforgettable night, readers only being clear of the country at dawn, and there were no reports of enemy intercepted or shot down. There was, however, one bright spot at daylight when a photographic reconnaissance aircraft came in over the Welsh coast to take pictures of the Coventry ruins. It was intercepted and destroyed.

Yours truly,  
THOMAS ELMHIRST,  
The Cottage,  
Dummar,  
Basingstoke,  
January 7.

From Mr J. M. M. Keil  
Sir, As we have recently experienced the loss of a very good bracket clock, I can fully support Mr Pennefather's concern (Letters, January 7).

One wonders whether sufficient effort is being made in the detection and recovery of stolen works of art. The ease with which items are transferred overseas by container van with apparently minimum documentation is quite appalling.

There has recently been correspondence complaining of foreigners buying antiques due to our devaluation. Surely it is even more disturbing when they go for nothing.

them perhaps to deal with traffic offences of a minor nature.

Even here, though, there would be a grave danger of injustice, especially since so much of the evidence in such cases depends solely on the testimony of police officers. Acceptance of your arguments must cast serious doubts on the desirability of the whole system of magistrates' courts. To abolish them, of course, would be inordinately expensive, as they deal with some 96 per cent of all criminal cases in this country, and there is as I understand it, no distinction between lay and stipendiary magistrates in your criticism.

There is no doubt that the quality and efficiency of magistrates varies considerably, both from bench to bench, and within the membership of each petty sessional division. A similar criticism could be made of the professional judiciary (why else do counsel manoeuvre to have their cases heard by one judge rather than another?).

It is at least arguable that magistrates, who are experienced in weighing the value of evidence presented to them and in assessing the credibility of witnesses and defendants, and who moreover are accustomed to court procedure, may be a little more likely to arrive at the truth than a group of citizens with no experience, qualification or training for the task, who may also be bewildered and puzzled by the unfamiliar procedure of the crown court.

Is there really any hard evidence one way or the other to indicate whether juries or justices are more often right in their findings?

And though the price of justice is certainly a factor, it is not necessarily true that the price of dealing with cases in the crown courts is greatly in excess of disposing of them before magistrates.

Yours faithfully,  
JOYCE PURSER,  
Woodbyth,  
Dogsheep Road,  
Petersborough,  
January 6.

### Village schools

From Canon L. W. C. Sharland

Sir, May a former country parson suggest that some of our current education problems might be partially solved by a return to village schools? However wise or otherwise it was to close village schools, reduce railroads and reorganize rural services, it is certainly, beyond doubt, a mistake to have so many things when circumstances again change.

The real indictment from future historians will surely not be that great mistakes were made, but that they were not admitted or corrected when it was clearly right to do so.

A return to primary village education would have some obvious advantages, including the provision of a strong foundation for the new improved education structure Mrs Williams and others are seeking, and would help to reduce the number of redundant teachers as well as involve more closely the parents and local community.

But what of the cost? Why not a Village Jubilee Project, at least to provide the buildings? And of course there would be some saving of money from reduced school bus and meal services.

Yours truly,  
LEONARD SHARLAND,  
Applegarth,  
Longmeadow Road,  
Lymington,  
Devon,  
January 10.

Unfortunately, as time went on, the creation of life peerages began to be included in, or indeed, almost confined to, "Honours Lists", and this has created a measure of confusion in the public mind and in the attitude of the media. I see no reason why service to the nation should not be recognized by the offer of an hereditary peerage as are the Orders of Chivalry.

Some measure of reform of the House of Lords is probably desirable and certainly possible without totally eliminating the hereditary element, which element seems to me to be acceptable and logical so long as, as a nation, are proud to have an hereditary monarch as head of state.

It follows that I agree with Mr Fletcher-Cooke's contention that the present situation amounts to a variation of our constitution without the sanction of Parliament Assembled or of the People.

Whatever the ultimate decision may be, as the matter stands Mr John Lee is correct when he writes (January 6) that it is "constitutional change occurring by stealth".

I am, Sir, yours, etc,  
FERRIER,  
House of Lords.

From Mr Angus Acworth  
Sir, I refer to the letters on this subject which you published on December 31 and January 7. There is a sort of re-year-itch about Temple Bar. This scheme and that is put forward to bring it back to the City of London, all of them in my view misconceived.

Temple Bar was designed by Sir Christopher Wren as a ceremonial entrance to the City. It was removed when traffic increased, the street plan was altered and the *mise-en-scène* changed out of recognition. Temple Bar cannot be put on the site for which it was designed; and so mistaken efforts are made to find somewhere else to put it—the bottom of Middle Temple Lane, the north-east corner of St Paul's Churchyard or wherever.

Those who would honour Wren should realize that there is nowhere in the City where the gateway can be an integral part of its setting as opposed to being just an exhibit. At Potter's Bar it is a distinguished landscape feature of the kind which became popular in the eighteenth century. It is best left there but the Department of the Environment should take guardianship—at the moment I believe it is no more than scheduled—so that it is properly maintained.

I am, Sir,  
Yours obedient servant,  
ANGUS ACWORTH,  
47 Eaton Square, SW1.

## The Banabans and the Gilbertese

From the General Secretary, Council for World Mission (Congregational and Reformed)

Sir, We should all be grateful to Sir Bernard Braine for his article on Ocean Island (The Times, January 10) and to James Cameron for a television film on the same subject. It is not often that the small population of a distant speck on the map gain such a sympathetic hearing in Britain.

That there has been a case of exploitation under the British colonial system there can be no doubt. The benefit accruing to Britain was the cheap food we were able to import from Australia and New Zealand, subsidised by Ocean Island's cheap fertilizer. Britain must attempt to put things right.

Unfortunately the present publicity focuses solely on the Banabans and not on the Gilbert Islands as a whole. The Banabans and the Gilbertese were one people, one in language and tradition, one by intermarriage, so it was not just a commercial trick to include Ocean Island within the boundaries of the Gilbert Islands colony. The phosphate was regarded quite properly as a resource for all the Gilbertese with separate royalties going to those who directly owned the Ocean Island land itself.

To speak now of separation for Ocean Island is a blow to the Gilbertese. Britain cannot escape from her Pacific entanglements by taking a narrow view of her responsibilities.

It will be up to Pacific people themselves to find a reconciliation of interests, but perhaps Britain may ally fears by adopting a policy such as the following:

1. With the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, Britain should ensure that the British Phosphate Commissioners make generous provision in lieu of making good the surface soil of Ocean Island.
2. With this resource behind them the Banabans should be given freedom to resettle on Ocean Island if they wish to do so.
3. The Gilbert Islands Government should be informed that Britain does not recognize independence for Ocean Island at the present time.
4. Britain should expedite the independence of the Gilbert Islands, and seek an agreement, should be felt, perhaps three years after independence, for a referendum among Banabans who live on Rabi or Ocean Island on the question of independence of Ocean Island; the majority wish to be respected by all the Pacific peoples.

Putting off an historic wrong is always very difficult; we are liable to create new injustices. Therefore the British Parliament should not be hurried into adopting a short term and narrow view of our obligations.

Yours truly,  
BERNARD THOROGOOD,  
Livingstone House,  
11 Carteret Street, SW1.

### Voting in Europe

From Mr Pietro Cipolla

Sir, I should like to draw your attention to a worrying fact concerning the future (or possible) elections of the European Parliament: that of the vote of emigrants, and in particular of the Italian emigrants resident in the EEC. They number an astonishing 1,600,000 (the statistics are taken from an article in one of the December issues of *La Voce degli Italiani* a fortnightly newspaper for Italians resident in the United Kingdom) and as things stand at the moment, they will have to return to their country of origin in order to vote.

The exercise of this right, which far from being just another bureaucratic obstacle to be overcome as quickly as possible, is a real and a genuine realization of European integration; will be for most of these Italians, at the best, a worthless abstraction.

Only 14 per cent of the Italians living abroad voted in the recent legislative elections. This is a disgraceful and delayed for so long, and the feeling of many emigrants who have been cut out of the political elections of the countries they have been resident for so many years, I fear the percentage of those who will return to vote will be much lower.

I should think that if a European Parliament were to be elected, it would not be just a projection of age old national systems and policies, this small and seemingly insignificant anachronism should be removed.

Yours faithfully,  
PIETRO CIPOLLA,  
114 Kingston Green Road,  
Solihull,  
West Midlands.

### Temple Bar

From Mr Angus Acworth

Sir, I refer to the letters on this subject which you published on December 31 and January 7. There is a sort of re-year-itch about Temple Bar. This scheme and that is put forward to bring it back to the City of London, all of them in my view misconceived.

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Yours obedient servant,  
ANGUS ACWORTH,  
47 Eaton Square, SW1.

## PRICE FIXING BY TRADE UNION POWER

When the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection was created to usher in the new era of fearless promotion of fair trading practices, consumers were promised vigorous action against anyone who dared tamper with their interests. It is, therefore, disappointing to see a minister of the abilities of Mr Roy Hattersley contriving a situation so totally counter to his Whitehall brief.

The spectacle of the small United Road Transport Union quite openly forcing supermarkets to observe prices for bread higher than if consumers were allowed to exercise their free choice is an amazing one. It is largely of Mr Hattersley's own making, given the history of intervention on trade discounts; the responsibility for correcting what the Consumers' Association has told the TUC's general secretary, Mr Len Murray, is an "arrant disregard for consumer interests" rests with the Government.

## SECRET DEATH IN SOUTH AFRICA'S PRISONS

The admission by the South African police yesterday that two more detainees under interrogation have died has led the South African Institute of Race Relations to ask for another judicial inquiry. Fifteen are said to have died in police custody in 1976, and more boldly Mr Sonny Leon, a member of the official Coloured Representative Council, three weeks ago called for an inquiry by the International Commission of Jurists, indicating that no other judicial investigation would be convincing.

He was right, though the South African Institute quite properly called for the only one the South African Government would consider. The call for an impartial investigation is not new. After the death of Mr Ahmed Timol, for instance, the result of falling by an alleged accident from the tenth floor of a prison window, the International Jurists themselves called for an impartial inquiry. They were of course ignored.

There have been a succession of locally based inquiries into the actions of policemen or

warders in the past ten years, but still the "suicides" of political suspects and prisoners continue, and still no change is made in prison administration or methods—although on a number of occasions judges have imposed fines and even imprisonment on officers or police who were found guilty of behaving improperly or brutally. The fact that some justice occasionally is done may be adduced by apologists for South Africa as evidence that there is legal restraint over police and warders.

The salient fact is that the deaths in prison continue. The further fact is that the constant excuse of the police that the prisoners took their own lives is itself a clear admission that torture, physical and psychological, is extensively employed, is carried to extreme lengths, and is on an increasing scale. It is evidence that Mr Vorster's Government is unperturbed by the occasional judicial reverses their men suffer, and suggests that the police and the warders' methods are to its liking. The only alternative to such a conclusion is that the police are out of the Government's control.

Though, unfortunately, not surprising, it is depressing to see members of my profession using yet again the delights expressed by past overseas visitors as a measure of the worth of their products. I feel certain the controller of housing could supply a more critical appraisal of their value from present tenants.

The profession does itself a disservice when, as the letter implies, it divorces architectural standards from architectural service.

Yours truly,  
CEDRIC PRICE,  
38 Alfred Place, WC1,  
January 4.

A number of whites who were detained in South Africa have returned to the world to report not only that they were victims of the tortures by non-white prisoners they surreptitiously made contact with, but heard evidence of it with their ears. They may be accused of bias. They should not be. For this is a case in which the accused, the South African Government, must be held guilty until it proves its innocence. It has suppressed all the evidence it can and intimidated all possible witnesses.

Newspaper investigation of prison affairs is illegal and those who infringe the law have been punisively fined. The ordinary citizen who speaks up disappears—the Minister of Justice can detain anyone for a year without a charge, and he has a vast arsenal of weapons of intimidation.

The South African Government may refuse an international inquiry, but it must be told that so low has the reputation of its justice fallen that no other inquiry will be acceptable. Default must, therefore, be entered as an admission of guilt.

Human society has its perennial mechanisms for reconciling divided groups, the chief of these being the common education of the young and marriage across the divide. The logic of the peace movement is to encourage shared education and mixed marriages, the current discipline of the Catholic bishops of Ireland is to oppose them.

While hasty mixing of all schools could greatly increase the fears of the community and is quite out of the question, could the Church not take the lead in encouraging an openness to inter-church sharing both in school and in marriage? By so doing it would undermine the basic causes of sectarian distrust which its own regulations have hitherto stimulated. There could be no more authentic contribution, in deed as well as in word, to the cause of peace.

Yours,  
ADRIAN HASTINGS,  
80 Bedford Place,  
Aberdeen,  
January 6.

### Clocks in danger

From Mr J. M. M. Keil

Sir, As we have recently experienced the loss of a very good bracket clock, I can fully support Mr Pennefather's concern (Letters, January 7).

One wonders whether sufficient effort is being made in the detection and recovery of stolen works of art. The ease with which items are transferred overseas by container van with apparently minimum documentation is quite appalling.

There has recently been correspondence complaining of foreigners buying antiques due to our devaluation. Surely it is even more disturbing when they go for nothing.

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. M. KEIL,  
John Keil Limited,  
154 Brompton Road, SW3,  
January 10.

### JLC housing

from Mr Cedric Price

I refer to the letter from Sir James Richards and others (The Times, January 4) concerning the proposed change in the JLC Architects Department.

If the design and construction of houses is viewed as one aspect of housing, then the change seems extremely sensible, since it is a reaffirmation of housing as a humane continuous process rather than a product dominated programme. If uses do not by themselves create a possibility of a more coherent housing policy with fewer aesthetic fashion fancies—I suspect, are these days?

It is worth recalling that the usual housing effort after the war was the responsibility of the Ministry of Health—and was seen as part of a process of establishing national wellbeing. Healthy people in live-in cold buildings—the ill in them.







**LAING**  
for tomorrow's  
BUILDING, CIVIL  
& INDUSTRIAL  
ENGINEERING

**SEASON**  
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of Your Life (Apollo)

to a Coward (Apollo)

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West End reviews

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Mr John Gielgud's

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of *Antony and Cleo*

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the revival of *My Fair Lady*

in English tour, to

of *Midsummer Night's Dream*

at Stratford-upon-Avon

One of his last

arts was in the

Seamus Heaney

in which he

played the German

in *Hamlet*

in 1966 he was

Assistant Director

of the Royal

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## Iran imposes barter rules for imports in face of declining revenue from oil

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, and Abu Dhabi raised prices by only 5 per cent.

Iran was already in some financial difficulties before the split in the oil producers' cartel, and the slump in crude supplies has been cutting the oil revenues of the world's second largest producer by \$23m a day compared with a year ago.

Detailing the situation, the Iranian minister yesterday explained that direct sales of the National Iranian Oil Company in early January were 51 per cent down on the December average. Sales through the consortium of western oil companies handling a large slice of Iran's crude fell by 35 per cent.

Customers who had failed to take delivery of crude sold to them directly had violated the agreements and commitments, he said. They had demanded a discount which was immediately rejected.

To meet the crisis, the minister disclosed, all the country's future imports would be switched to barter, trading oil for commodities (as practised with the Soviet Union and most Eastern block countries).

Presentations of the coming year's budget to Parliament would be delayed for two weeks in order to adjust figures and prepare more realistic measures.

Suppliers of equipment and contractors engaged on many

ambitious projects in Iran are bound to seek early clarification. They include British exporters who were exhorting and cajoled to win business in Iran.

It is already known that many vital defence orders have been the subject of requests to settle bills in oil and exporters returning to Britain from Iran have separate stories of emerging problems.

Britain is a big supplier of non-defence items, including machinery, steel, pharmaceutical goods and transport equipment (including Chrysler UK cars in kit form for local assembly).

Whether Mr Deh can salvage both existing export orders and expected contracts without taking huge quantities of more expensive oil (Iran is already a big supplier to the United Kingdom) seems doubtful. Government pressure has already been brought to bear on companies, like Shell and BP, to protect certain defence contracts by accepting oil above normal rates.

To date, Iran has provided only \$300m of the \$1,000m loan it promised to Britain. The question now is whether Mr Deh can negotiate the second and third instalments when the budget minister's statement on external aid indirectly dismisses the possibility.

## BNOC reaches North Sea participation pact with Deminex

The Government yesterday announced a North Sea oil participation agreement with the West German company Deminex.

Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy, said that an agreement in principle had been reached, which would give the British National Oil Corporation the right to take a 51 per cent share of the Thistle field off the coast of the Shetland Islands.

Deminex (UK) Exploration and Production, and Deminex Oil and Gas (UK), both subsidiaries of Deminex-Deutsch (Dörschungs-Gesellschaft) of Essen, between them hold 42.5 per cent of block 211/18 which includes the Thistle field.

The Deminex deal is the latest in a series of participation agreements concluded by the Government. Agreements have been made with Gulf, Conoco, Amoco and Ranger.

Memoranda of principles have been agreed with BP, Shell,

Esso and Chevron and heads of agreement with the Occidental Group, the Union North Sea Group, and Santa Fe.

Dr Mabon said that an exchange of letters had taken place between the Government, BNOC and the two Deminex subsidiaries.

"The parties are agreed that BNOC should have the right to take at market price up to 51 per cent of Deminex's petroleum from the Thistle area," he said. "The deal also provides for BNOC to have additional voting rights under the relevant operating agreements," the Minister concluded.

"It is the intention of the parties to conclude a full legal agreement as soon as practicable."

Deminex is a state-supported consortium of German oil processing companies engaged in exploration and production. Formed in 1963, its objective is to provide Germany with access to oil for which it is actively exploring in 13 countries.

## State industry chiefs form group to boost exports

Our Industrial Staff

State industry chiefs have set up a group to boost public export. The group will act as a committee of the industrialised industries chairmen's group and seek ways of collaborating between themselves and with customers, suppliers and consultancy services.

The brief of the group is to examine direct exports, overseas project management and consultancy, and to coordinate efforts in the area of export promotion. Another main area, which is being separately studied for the National Economic Development Office by Sir Raymond Brown, Britain's former chief sales manager, is the scope for standardization of plans orders placed with British manufacturers to help their exports. Sir Raymond has already had discussions with the group.

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, is the chairman of the new group

which comprises British Airways, British Gas Corporation, British Rail, British Steel Corporation, the Electricity Council, National Coal Board and the Post Office.

Associate members are: British Airports Authority, British Transport Docks Board, British Waterways Board, Independent Broadcasting Authority, London Transport, National Bus Company, National Freight Corporation, National Water Council and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

It is expected that the group will study collaboration at all levels from consortia projects to individual companies.

The feeling in Whitehall is that many state industries have virtually untapped resources which could be invaluable to exports if closer collaboration could be fostered between state industries and the private sector.

## How the markets moved

The Times index: 152.15-1.79

The FT index: 358.6-5.0

**Rises**

U.S. W. G. 4p to 32p  
Oil Car Auction 21p to 33p  
C. Finance 3p to 30p  
Erasmus Ind 4p to 50p  
Landfill Secs 10p to 13p  
Lackey 2p to 30p  
Ewartill 3p to 35p

**Falls**

P. 28p to 78p  
Countrywide 1p to 9p  
Isburg Gold 6p to 70p  
1st Portland 10p to 20p  
Ansony 15p to 25p  
W. Ind 10p to 21p  
Innos 10p to 21p

quities lost ground. It edged securities did not hold their gains. Sterling lost 5 points to \$1.7085. The effective devaluation rate was 43.5 per cent. Gold, \$2.255 per ounce to 29.125.

**Commodities:** Coffee prices partially recovered; cocoa was strong. Rubber's index was at 1585.3 (previous 1578.5).

Reports, pages 20 and 21

**THE POUND**

Bank buys Bank sells

Australia S 1.64 1.59  
Austria Sch 30.50 28.50  
Belgium Fr 65.75 62.75  
Canada S 1.79 1.74  
Denmark Kr 10.48 10.08  
Finland Mk 6.75 6.50  
France Fr 8.85 8.53  
Germany Dm 4.29 4.07  
Greece Dr 75.00 71.00  
Hongkong S 8.50 8.05  
Italy L 1,625.00 1,550.00  
Japan Y 530.00 505.00  
Netherlands Gld 4.48 4.26  
Norway Kr 9.38 9.02  
Portugal Esc 59.50 54.75  
S. Africa R 2.90 1.84  
Spain Pes 122.00 114.00  
Sweden Kr 7.54 7.19  
Switzerland Fr 4.45 4.23  
US \$ 1.77 1.72  
Yugoslavia Dn 34.75 32.50

SDR-\$ was 1.15828 on Tuesday, while SDR-£ was 0.672441.

Commodities: Coffee prices partially recovered; cocoa was strong. Rubber's index was at 1585.3 (previous 1578.5).

Reports, pages 20 and 21

Reports, pages 20 and 21

## THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

## Heavy sales reverse pound's gains

By Our Economics Staff

Heavy selling of the pound yesterday afternoon wiped out all the gains which sterling had made overnight in New York on the strength of the agreement in Basle to deal with the sterling balances.

Sterling closed in London at 1.7085, down 0.05 cents compared with its Monday close in London and nearly 2½ cents down on its opening rate of 1.71305.

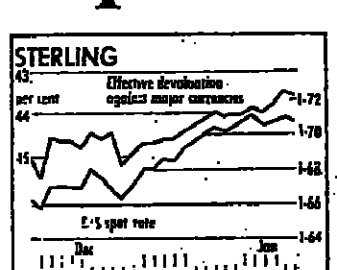
Hedging buying in the United States had at one point taken the pound to 1.714. Its effective devaluation against a basket of other currencies was 43.5 per cent. This was 0.1 per cent more worse than at close of business in London on Monday

and 0.9 per cent more than the opening rate.

A big Swiss seller in mid-afternoon seems to have been the driving force behind the fall yesterday afternoon, but there was also some selling from the United States as profit-taking developed.

There was also thought to be signs that the Bank of England was selling pounds for dollars in an effort to replenish its reserves. These were in any case boosted on Monday by the drawing of the first £50m from the loan arranged with the International Monetary Fund.

Markets retreat: Both equities and gilt-edged stocks were at first helped by the sterling agreement. But, in both cases, early gains were not held as the pound weakened and it



became apparent that the minimum lending rate was not to be cut again on Friday.

Early attention in the fixed-interest market centred on the longer dates and brought rises of up to a full point. But, as demand slackened off, most prices fell back and by the close of trading "longs" were only one-quarter ahead. Short

and medium dates finished by up to three-eighths higher. The level of trading was reported to be the best for a long time. The equity market continued to react to the strong gains of recent weeks as prices were shaken. The FT Index, 2.8 up at 10 am, lost ground thereafter and by the close was five points down at 358.6. Dealers said that the earlier selling was comparatively light but that it intensified in mid-afternoon as sterling lost ground.

This reaction comes as "no surprise to most market men after the 100 point index rise since late October. Many were expecting a sharper decline and are looking for prices to continue to fall for several days yet. Next week's trade figures are seen as the next potentially bearish hurdle.

## Basle aid 'paves way for long-term solution'

From Frank Vogel

Washington, Jan 11.—Mr Ernest Yeo, the United States Treasury Secretary of State, said today that the agreement on the problems of the sterling balances now paved the way for a fundamental long-term solution.

He noted that "it will certainly eliminate any instability (in the exchange markets) that might arise from fluctuations in the levels of sterling balances."

Secret negotiations have taken place over the past month, culminating in a quick visit to London by Mr Yeo over the weekend and the meeting in Basle during the past two days of central bank governors.

The first substantive discussions on the outline of the agreement took place immediately after the British Government had firmly decided what set of new economic policies to promote in connection with the application for a \$3,900m (about £2,300m) loan from the IMF.

No agreement on the balances would have been possible without firm support and a large financial commitment by the United States. The Americans wanted the agreement to avoid

any guarantee of a fixed exchange rate for the pound. It also had to be formulated in such a way that it would not set a precedent that could inspire some large foreign holder of dollars to press the Americans at some future date to adopt a similar scheme for at least partial funding of the vast volume of current foreign dollar balances.

Congressional leaders took the view that the United States could not participate at this time in any long-term loan to Britain in addition to its involvement through the general arrangement to borrow to provide currencies to the IMF to finance the loan to Britain.

It was agreed at the outset that the United States would have to provide the loan in short- to medium-term credit to support British reserves, rather than directly assume any part of the official sterling holdings by means, for example, of directly offering dollars to British holders of United States Treasury notes.

The Americans also took the view that if the problem was to be solved then some funding arrangements for the sterling balances were needed in addition to providing the British

reserves with some means of cushioning the impact of any sudden decline in the foreign official sterling balances.

Peter Norman, writes from Basle: West Germany and Switzerland will once again be the two European countries bearing the major burden of the latest international support action for sterling.

European central bank sources said today that the West German Federal Bank would guarantee about 20 per cent of the \$3,900m standby credit to be arranged at the Bank for International Settlements in Basle as a safety net for the sterling balances, while it was reported from Zurich that the Swiss National Bank would guarantee \$300m or 10 per cent.

The sources did not name a precise figure for the German contribution as it is hoped that other countries like Austria and Norway will join the eight nations that have already agreed to back up the BIS credit line.

It also appears that the Bank of England will be able to draw on the standby credit if the sterling balances fall from around their present level.

The financing of the standby will first of all be a concern for the BIS and the central

banks guaranteeing the credit line will only step in if the BIS is unable to cover drawings on the strength of its own reserves. The idea that the BIS should floor a bond issue to help finance the credit line has not been incorporated into the final package, the sources added.

Dr Hans Maas, the chief economist of the Credit Suisse in Zurich described the package as a very substantial gift which would have a purpose only if the British Government continued in its efforts to restore the internal economic well-being of the United Kingdom.

For this reason, the Government in London should hold its present economic course and aim for further reductions in public spending.

The worst thing that could happen would be for the British Government to take the establishment of the safety net as a signal for prematurely easing the brakes on the British economy, he added. On the other hand it should permit a reduction in the present "crisis" level of British interest rates, providing the public sector did not overburden the United Kingdom capital market.

As the sun sets, page 19

## Harrisons tries full bid for plantation 'sisters'

By Desmond Quigley

A day after a complex Scheme of Arrangement for the merger of three plantation companies managed by Harrisons & Crosfield was thwarted, Harrisons has launched a full takeover bid for the "three sisters".

Essentially, the bid for Golden Hope, Patzing and London Asiatic, is designed to achieve precisely the objects of the Scheme of Arrangement, but stands more chance of success because it will not be so easy to block.

The bid is to be made by Harrisons Malaysia Estates, which has been set up in England in expectation of the original scheme going through, and will be effected by a share swap.

For every 100 shares in the existing companies, Golden Hope shareholders are offered 155 HME shares, London Asiatic shareholders 134 HME shares and Patzing shareholders 128 HME shares.

The takeover and subsequent merger and transfer of domicile, to Malaysia will be effective in the case of shareholders of any two companies agreeing. The Scheme of Arrangement collapsed on Monday when it was rejected by the shareholders of Golden Hope and Patzing.

Hope after shareholders in the other two companies had voted in favour of it.

A main cause for the collapse was the opposition of Genting Highland, which said that the new proposals were being put forward because the Scheme of Arrangement had received the support of the vast majority of shareholders in each of the three companies.

The proposed HME dividend for the year to the end of March, 1978, has been increased from 3.48p a share gross to 4.62p under the new proposals.

Financial Editor, page 19

## Dunford reply warms up J & FB contest

By John Brennan

Johnson & Firth Brown's £9.3m takeover bid for Dunford & Elliott, its fellow Sheffield steel maker, is steadily turning into a gentlemanly slugging match.

Mr Frank Welsh, Dunford's chairman, yesterday expressed his confidence in the group's defence of the "King and confused" revised offer document sent to shareholders on Monday by J & FB.

The document, which, unusually, includes details of Dunford's banking arrangements, which, J & FB argues, are very onerous and impose a number of unusual restrictions which seriously limit Dunford's freedom of manoeuvre—"is, according to Mr Welsh, like the classic legal situation, where "if you have a weak case you abuse the opponent's attorney."

Mr Welsh feels that shareholders will ignore this "trifling weak" offer when they see concrete evidence of Dunford's promised earnings recovery in the first quarter

results due shortly. Dunford, which lost £1.1m at the pre-tax profit level last year, has forecast profits of more than £5m in 1976-77, a forecast against which J & FB directors have been openly sceptical.

In the latest offer document, Mr John Clay, J & FB's chairman, who forecast £11m pre-tax profits this year against 1975-76's £6.1m, writes that "the risk of (Dunford's) bankers' requirements not being met is very high and the likelihood of a further capital reconstruction is correspondingly great. Dunford's financial position remains very insecure even after its £3m rights issue."

Mr Welsh disagrees with J & FB's comment that Dunford has been "consistently over-optimistic in its forecasts," arguing that only two forecasts have been made in recent years, both of which were underestimates.

Yesterday J & FB's shares closed 2p up at 49p. Dunford's rose 1p to 47p, 2p below J & FB's one for one share offer.

## Austrian group may offer Meriden deal

By Derek Harris

Steyr-Daimler-Puch, the Austrian automotive group, is considering whether to offer a cooperation agreement, covering development, production, research and development, to the troubled Meriden motor cycle cooperative.

It could lead to a rescue plan for the cooperative now that the Government has started an in-depth study of ways of saving the Meriden enterprise and its 700 workforces.

It could be logical, if a close cooperation were established with the cooperative, for SDP to help the Meriden venture with development cash, although so far SDP has not considered this in detail. However, Mr Peter Bolton, managing director of Steyr-Daimler-Puch GB, said in Nottingham last night that SDP would unquestionably have sufficient cash to give such aid.

Especially if the British Government was prepared to underwrite SDP financing for the cooperative, a rescue might be put together.

The Government has refused the cooperative £1m of aid, half of which is needed to buy out marketing and trading assets from NVT Motorcycles. The other £500,000 is wanted for development, especially of new generation motor cycles to replace the aging Bonneville.

It is the second half of this financing that could interest SDP. Mr Dennis Poore, NVT chairman, has already pointed out that if his company was paid £500,000, it would be passed straight over to the Government to help redeem preference shares. "To that extent it would not cost the Government a penny," Mr Poore has said.

For energy, who undertook the inauguration ceremony jointly with Dr Hammer, said that while there was anxiety about refinery overcapacity at existing refineries in Britain and most other parts of the world, Dr Hammer said the refinery would be technically different from earlier plants. It would have a 50,000-ton catalytic cracker and produce petrol and naphtha from fuel oil.

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, who undertook the inauguration ceremony jointly with Dr Hammer, said that while there was anxiety about refinery overcapacity at existing refineries in Britain and most other parts of the world, Dr Hammer said the refinery would be technically different from earlier plants. It would have a 50,000-ton catalytic cracker and produce petrol and naphtha from fuel oil.

Oil from the Piper field is flowing at the rate of 60,000 barrels a day. When it reaches peak capacity at the end of this year it should be producing 250,000 barrels a day.

Higher revenues: Mr Hammer said he expected 1977 revenues to total about £7,000m against £5,300m in 1975.

## US warns Japan to cut its surplus

From Peter Harellhorst

Tokyo, Jan 11

Japanese business leaders were given an unofficial but firm warning today that economic advisers to Mr Jimmy Carter, president-elect, will expect Japan to reduce drastically its overwhelming surplus in trade and services with the rest of the world.

This was said in Tokyo tonight by Professor Richard Cooper, of Yale University, who is expected to be named later this month as Mr Carter's Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs.

Professor Cooper, giving his personal views at the end of the seventh meeting of the Trilateral Commission—a private forum of Japanese, American and European economic and political experts, said: "To put it frankly, Japan is imposing an unjust burden on the rest of the world in running up such a large surplus in trade."

The Trilateral Commission, sponsored by Mr David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, to encourage better communications between the free world's three major economic powers, held its seventh round of discussions in Tokyo during the past three days to establish, in theoretical and unofficial terms, how the three industrialized nations could expand their economies to pull the world out of a recession.

Japan's controversial trade surplus with the European Economic Community was included on the agenda during a seminar today. In general terms, delegates supported a policy of continued free trade, in spite of the pressures for protectionist policies.

## International Timber Corporation

Interim Report for half year to 30th September 1976

Turnover for the six months has advanced, brought about by higher prices due largely to the reduced value of sterling, and by increased deliveries to our customers. Our Belgian investment has continued to show a loss but encouraging profits in Holland mean that our European Division as a whole is now supporting the much improved U.K. results.

It is probable that activity in the first quarter of 1977 will be at a lower level. Interest charges will be higher. Accordingly profits for the second half year are unlikely to equal those of the first, although October and November gave a good start to the period.

Your Board has decided to pay an interim dividend of 2.5p for each Ordinary Stock Unit (1976 2.25p) and it is anticipated that the final dividend will be increased to the maximum permitted under current regulations. The interim dividend will be paid on April 7th, 1977 to Stockholders on the Share Register on March 4th, 1977.

	Unaudited for the half year to 30.9.76	Audited for the year to 30.9.75	Audited for the year to 30.9.74
External Sales	69,076	60,522	114,579
Profit for the Period	1,591	1,693	3,893
Interest-Including Loan Stock £227,000 (1975 - £239,000)	1,639	1,525	2,987
Profit before Taxation	3,552	168	906
Group Profit after Taxation	1,752	58	407
Interim Dividend per Ordinary Stock Unit	2.5p	2.25p	5.64p
Ordinary Stock Unit:			
Basic	13.9p	0.6p	3.4p
Fully Divided	10.0p	1.05p	3.7p

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Although producing motor-cars machines more powerful than the 500cc models, the group has been considering widening its range with larger-capacity machines such as Meriden is producing.



## Japanese plea over backlog orders delays shipbuilding talks

Industrial Correspondent  
Paris, Jan 11

Europe and Japan remained poles apart over measures to deal with the world shipbuilding crisis during several hours of talks here today held under the aegis of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The two sides are separated by fundamental differences and there is little prospect of the impasse being resolved. The EEC, however, managed to secure the formal and valuable support of the Spanish, Norwegian and Finnish governments to its proposal, made last month, for a 50:50 sharing of the world market in new ships.

Japan has consistently expressed strong opposition to the EEC plan and it was underlined yet again at today's meeting.

Pressure is now building up in Europe for the deployment of defensive measures against Japan, which last year mopped up 13 million gross tons of orders for sophisticated merchant ship tonnage at Europe's expense. The crunch with Japan could well come next month.

Over the next three weeks there is to be an intensive round of meetings involving Community officials, government representatives and shipbuilding industry leaders from all European countries in a bid to hammer out a coordinated policy to combat the incessant growth of Japan's share of what will be a dwindling market.

During today's meeting of the OECD's working party on shipbuilding, however, the Japanese scored a tactical point by successfully proposing that there should be a more detailed and more regular monitoring of the size of both European and Japanese order backlogs. The Japanese, therefore, have successfully delayed discussions,

claiming that the EEC plan—based solely on new orders—was unrealistic, and a clear picture of the overall situation could only be obtained by improved information on the state of order books revised every three months.

On the evidence at present available these are likely to show that Japan has less work in hand than yards in Europe. At the end of September last year, Japanese yards are estimated to have held the equivalent of 1.13 years' work against the 1.93 years' held by member countries of the Association of Western European Shipbuilders.

Europe counters the Japanese plan, however, on the ground that these are misleading figures, since Europe's traditional dependence on more sophisticated types of ships taking longer to build explains the discrepancy.

But Japan's bid to delay the next meeting of the working party until after February 20 when new figures covering both new orders and the work-load could be presented was frustrated by European delegates who insisted that the next meeting should take place on February 18.

Little else appears to have been achieved apart from an agreement to disagree over the EEC's plan for market sharing and some discussion of technical and statistical questions. However, at next month's meeting a Japanese Government delegation is expected formally to reject the EEC package as unworkable and against the principles of free trade.

After today's meeting, Mr. Shiroichi Yano, head of the Japanese delegation to the OECD, said: "We are against any kind of market-sharing, but at the same time our Government has no intention of increasing its share of the world market."

### In brief

## House price rises slowed to 1pc in last quarter

A survey by the Nationwide Building Society shows that during 1976 house prices increased on average by about 8 per cent—little more than half the general level of price rises. In the last quarter of 1976, house price rises had slowed to a national average of only 1 per cent.

But, said Mr. Leonard Williams, the society's chief general manager, the relatively slow increase in house prices was helping buyers and most properties represented good value at their present prices.

## November sales higher than forecast

The British retail sales volume index for November was 109.3, up 1.9 per cent from a month earlier, and up 3.9 per cent from a year earlier, the Department of Industry said yesterday.

The department said the November retail sales suggest a recovery in trade from the fall in retail volume in October.

## Life assurance premiums rise 18pc

New yearly premiums for life assurance and annuities increased by 18 per cent to £987m in 1976, according to the Life Offices Association.

The association's figures for last year show that single premium policies paid for in the year rose by 83 per cent, from £219m to £401m, reflecting a revival in the linked bond market. New sums assured rose by 17 per cent from £28,800m to £33,600m in the year and annuities increased by 22 per cent to £1,200m a year.

## Leyland hangs on to market lead in face of challenge by Ford

By Ronald Embley  
Ford's Escort and Cortina ranges topped the league of most popular cars in Britain last year with sales of 133,000 and 126,000 respectively. With its Cortina range in seventh place, the group took 25.25 per cent of total United Kingdom sales during the year.

British Leyland topped the market with 27.4 per cent of sales. Its top selling model was the aging Mini, with just over 81,000.

Leyland, which saw its market share decline from more than 30 per cent in 1975, will be anxiously watching sales returns over the next few months, as it is possible that Ford will replace it as leading manufacturer in sales terms.

Now that Ford is introducing the Fiesta next month it is certain that Escort sales will fall as a result, but it is widely expected that Escort/Fiesta sales combined will erode still

further Leyland's market share. The Fiesta launch marks Ford's entry to the true mini market and, with the Leyland model taking on an increasingly aged look in the consumer's eyes, Leyland may see Mini sales suffer and the Marina take over as its most popular model range.

Japanese cars last year took 9.1 per cent of the total market, a rise of 0.4 per cent. While that increase may seem no more than marginal, British manufacturers are worried that it took place in a rising market at a time when Far Eastern imports were subject to an undertaking not to increase their market penetration.

The increased percentage is bound to affect the tone of talks to be held in London later this month between the British and Japanese industries about orderly marketing of Japanese cars this year.

## Hope of peace formula in Rubery Owen strike

After six hours of talks in Birmingham, officials of the main unions at Rubery Owen's Darlaston, Staffordshire, motor component plant agreed that future disputes would be dealt with in the official procedure of the engineering industry. But they admitted at a conference later that they had still to "sell" the deal to their 1,800 members at the factory.

Mr. Moss Evans, national organizer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said arrangements would be made as soon as possible to hold a mass meeting to do this.

Mr. John Owen, managing

director of Rubery Owen, said: "Encouraging progress has been made but there is still a long way to go before we can overcome the crisis facing the company."

Rover drivers strike: All movement of completed cars out of British Leyland's Rover plant at Coventry has been halted by a strike of drivers employed by a Birmingham car delivery company.

The drivers, who work for James Car Deliveries, stopped work on Monday in protest against moves by Leyland to change its car delivery arrangements at the Rover plant.

## £10m military radio order for Philips offshoot

An order worth more than £10m for Clansman military radio equipment for an unspecified overseas government has been announced by MEL Equipment, of Crawley, Sussex, a subsidiary of the Philips electronics group.

The company says that it has now sold Clansman systems to military customers in Africa, South America and the Middle East, as well as supplying the British Army. MEL declined to identify the 10m-plus customer, but it is believed to be an African country.

This brings the total of Clansman export orders to more than £20m, the company states.

## Agricultural Export Council closure fears

Closure of the British Agricultural Export Council was inevitable unless the Government and industry committed money to it, Lord Glenkilg, chairman of the council, said yesterday. Meanwhile, British agriculture was losing export business worth thousands of millions of pounds because it had failed to spend as much on promotion as other countries.

Lord Glenkilg told reporters that West Germany had sent two representatives to 28 agricultural shows in Latin America last year. "The best we have been able to do is to send one chap to one show every six months, and that strained our resources."

"If you go to Brazil you meet 20 Japanese in a little row. They are not doing it for fun; they are getting the business."

The council needed to know about its future by the end of January, Lord Glenkilg went on. It was worried that the recommendations of the Strutt report about farm exports from Britain, published in May last year, had not been acted upon.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Wanted: a system of merit award embodying tax relief to industry

From Mr B. E. Cotton

Sir, If the country is to shift its material and human resources into manufacturing industry, we must accept that the material rewards must go to that sector. There must be an end of fairness and the Government must accept that tax benefits and incentives are biased in favour of manufacturing industry, and those who work and invest in it.

I should like to see a new scheme on similar lines to the Queen's Award for Industry, but different, in that the reward would be tax relief for the company and its employees with the removal of dividend control from its shareholders. It should not be difficult to devise a scheme whereby all those companies who agree with their employees to improve efficiency and profitability agree a target figure with Government each year for a percentage increase in output and profit over the previous year. If the targets were met then that per-

centage figure, or greater amount, by which output and profit had risen over the previous year would be averaged and the average percentage thus obtained applied as a reduction in corporation tax for the company, and income tax to all those who worked in the company at whatever position—whether chairman or floor sweeper. The percentage relief would be the same, but the amount related would vary in proportion to the individuals' tax commitment. I link increased output and profit as neither alone can fulfil the national need.

Such a measure, coupled with the cessation of dividend control for such companies would provide a powerful inducement to those in manufacturing industry and its investors as well as pointing clearly to students the obvious advantage of joining manufacturing industry.

The scheme may be unfair to those on fixed incomes, in

public service, and in service industries, but if it achieves a great increase in manufactured goods, increased output and closed the pay gap then more resources will be available for all.

Unless some such different tax scheme is brought in I doubt whether all the public effort in the world effecting the shift in human material resources. It is a materialistic philosophy, that is what manufacturing all about—material things, their manufacture. Those do not want to cope with organization of men and materials are quite right to see their fulfilment in service others. But let those of us are prepared to produce goods receive the reward of materialistic employment.

Yours, etc.  
B. E. COTTON,  
Chairman, Samuel Osborn & Co Ltd,  
Neither Lane, Ecclesfield, Sheffield, S30 3TR.

## Interfirm techniques and accounting procedures

From Mr L. Taylor Harrington

Sir, A number of firms which participate in interfirm comparisons organized by this centre have asked us to what extent interfirm comparison techniques will be affected by the introduction of company accounting procedures of the methods proposed by the Accounting Standards Committee in ED18.

As many of your readers may be interested in this question, I thought I would write briefly to outline the situation, as follows:

(1) We do not intend to make decisions on possible alterations in performance methods used in our work before discussion of the proposals has been completed and a statement of Standard Accounting Practice has been issued. The present proposals are not due to take effect, even for the largest companies, before accounting periods beginning July 1, 1978.

(2) In some respects, the ED18 methods are already used in our IFC work. For instance, companies taking part have for 15 years been revaluing plant and machinery on a current replacement cost basis, using industry price indices, and depreciation as a charge against profits has been based on the revalued figure. We would not envisage changing these methods fundamentally if ED18 becomes a standard.

(3) There is at least one area where ED18 would impinge on IFC techniques, namely the proposal to value stocks at current costs, and make the consequent adjustment to the profit figure. In IFC, historic costs for stocks have usually been used. If ED18 comes into operation, we shall consider adopting, at the appropriate point in time, the "current" value of stocks method.

## Myths in 'soft option' theory

From Mr Geoffrey Drain

Sir, I see that Mr J. P. Pe (January 5) has succumbed to some of the myths in ascribing the "soft-option" public sector employment attracting the best brains from industry.

First, the figures he quotes show that more graduates enter industry than the public sector and that the share of graduates going into public sector employment is stable (the likely to decline given the 10 per cent cut in expenditure).

Secondly, public sector workers would strongly resist any suggestion that it work is a "soft-option". Local government, my member are struggling to keep services going at a time when 50,000 unfilled posts in the public sector are being added to the public sector. Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY DRAIN,  
General Secretary,  
National and Local Government Officers Association,  
January 6.

## Automatic inclusion in pension plan

From Mr Geoffrey Wood

Sir, As I understand the 1975 Social Security Pensions Act, there is no question of contracting in as expressed by the four chairmen of various professional bodies in their letter published on December 22 but only of contracting out of the state scheme, and I agree that if the procedures are not completed in time people will be automatically included in the state scheme, in addition to any existing company scheme.

An interesting consequence would be an automatic breach of any pay code which prohibits improvement of company schemes beyond that required to provide the guaranteed pen-

sion of the state scheme, cause we would benefit from wholly additional scheme. With that precedent, and with the help of Stan Orme and Albert Boudin, the next pay code should permit the improvement of company schemes by amount equivalent to the total value of the state scheme, however expressed, in either benefits or earlier retirement, et cetera. Incidentally, can I advise a trade unionist to obtain the excellent TUC guide to contracting out, price 15p. Yours sincerely,  
GEOFFREY A. WOOD,  
7 Wolferton Road,  
Bristol BS7 9BB,  
December 30.

### Business appointments

## London and Manchester picks chairman-elect

Mr H. L. K. Browne, chief executive of London and Manchester Assurance, is to be made a deputy chairman with the intention that he becomes chairman upon the retirement of Mr Lewis Whyte next year. Mr Browne continues as a deputy chairman.

Mr Ron Weedon has been made managing director of British Relay Wireless and Television.

Mr David Kinloch has been appointed an executive director of Noble Grossart.

Mr M. H. Caine and Mr M. C. W. Widy, directors of Booker McConnell, have been elected directors of Kinloch (Provision Merchants).

Mr R. E. T. Nichols has become a director and chairman of Bank Bridge Group.

Mr G. W. Howe is to succeed Mr D. J. Nielson as chairman and managing director of Palm Line on March 31.

Mr F. W. Hall has been made a director of Metallurg Group Industrial Development.

Mr M. A. Sandes becomes managing director of London & Scandinavian Metallurgical.

Mr Cyril Gallimore, managing director of Metal-Standard and United Kingdom, has been made a vice-president of Metal-Standard Europe. Mr Colin Wise and Mr

Norman Bennett have become joint managing directors to succeed Mr Gallimore in the United Kingdom. Mr Wise continues as financial director and Mr Bennett as commercial director.

Mr J. M. Smith joins the board of Brunel.

Mr K. Jones becomes chief executive and managing director of Metallgesellschaft.

Mr Donald Crimmins has been appointed managing director of EMI (Australia). Mr John Kuipers continues as chairman.

Mr Tom James has succeeded Mr Nicholas Moss as chairman of William Moss and Sons. Mr Moss remains on the board.

Mr G. B. Brown and Mr P. R. S. Thomas have joined the board of Unisys Group.

Mr A. N. G. Dalton, deputy chairman of English China Clays, has been made a director of National Westminster Bank's south-west regional board.

Mr J. G. Parkes, chairman, Unilever Merseyside Committee, becomes a director of the bank's north regional board.

Mr Keith Bridger has become an additional director of C. E. Heath (North America) and resigned as a director of C. E. Heath (North American Reinsurance Broking).



Mr Rawlings. Mr Weedon.

Mr David Rawlings has joined the board of Trafalgar Watkin.

Mr A. Lloyd and Mr P. Richards have been elected directors of Greenstock, Ridd (Life & Pensions) Consultants.

Mr Roland A. Kjelland has been made executive vice-president, Kaiser Steel Corporation.

Dr V. M. Wadsworth has been appointed executive vice-chairman of Elther Industrial. Mr K. Williams becomes group managing director.

Mr Sidney Armstrong has become chairman and Mr Derek Broadley managing director of Darwins Alloy Castings and Darwins Magnets International.

Mr Jack Steer has been made president of the Association of Butter Blenders and Butter and Cheese Packers.

Mr F. H. Bailey has been appointed to the board of Clayton, Son (Hdgs).

Mr John Lawrenson has been made managing director of Buhling Law Reports.

Mr Tom Morris-Jones is to join the partnership of Albert I. Sharp.

Mr D. E. Whittingham has been made managing director as chief executive of EMI Insurance (UK) to succeed Mr W. S. Herderson, who remains on the board as non-executive chairman.

Mr Philip E. Beekman is joining the Seagrave Company as president and a director as well as chairman of the operating committee and member of the executive committee.

Mr William C. Pierce has been appointed head of Chemical Bank's petroleum and mineral division and a senior vice-president.

Mr R. M. Carroll is joining Decca Communications as director.

Mr John Cullis has joined the board of Francis Schuster as a executive director.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## The interest rate dilemma



signs of flagging, this is a most modest; and there is nothing to detract from the shares' attractions in a prospective yield of 6.6 per cent.

Interim: 1976-77 (1975-76)  
Capitalization £8.08m (—)  
Sales £22.26m (£19.1m)  
Pre-tax profits £1.78m (£2.39m)  
Dividend gross 3.98p (3.62p)

### International Timber Peak of the cycle

Mr Francis Perkins, chairman of Hogg Robinson, says profits growth below market expectations.

three companies are being asked to take on trust that the ultimate outcome will be similar to that propounded in the Scheme of Arrangement.

Johnson-Richards' misfortune in making too much profit in the first half of last year has been a source of concern.

So, although the United Kingdom subsidiaries have been operating at maximum capacity, and first-half volume was some 10 per cent up on the corresponding period, United Kingdom profits are sharply down.

Having now paid the price for its past errors of judgment, however, Johnson-Richards appears to be set for a good second half, since demand for its ceramic tiles is still running at a high level both at home (where sales through an increasing number of outlets and direct demand are sharply down) and abroad.

The United States subsidiary is still making losses; but they have been declining, and its deficit should be the best part of £500,000 lower at the end of this year than at the end of last. Meanwhile, profits at home (which accounts for around half of all sales) will compare with those achieved in a period when margins were often under six per cent.

On that performance the shares, down 4p to 148p yesterday, are selling at under six times last year's earnings. Given that demand shows no

Looking further ahead to the next financial year (to March 1978), prospects will look grim with lower demand and the virtual elimination of stock profits as prices flatten out. However, interest charges could be falling sharply, and hopes of a strong construction revival around the beginning of 1978 should ensure that pessimism in the sector is not unduly severe.

Meanwhile IT has at last broken even on its European operations.

The group seems unlikely to achieve much more than £6m for the full year and the shares, down 1p to 74p yesterday, are on a prospective p/e of 31, only fractionally below the sector average.

Interim: 1976-77 (1975-76)  
Capitalization £2.2m  
Sales £59m (£51m)  
Pre-tax profits £3.55m (£16.00m)  
Dividend gross 3.85p (3.46p)

### Hogg Robinson

#### As the pound rallies

Insurance broking shares have enjoyed a nine-month honeymoon with the stock market, the continued fall in sterling assisting a sector which earns more than 10 per cent on its foreign assets.

Hogg's dividend, above the sector average with a prospective 6.5 per cent on the basis of forecasts made at the time of its rights issue last August, provides adequate support at this level.

Interim: 1976-77 (1975-76)  
Capitalization £2.2m  
Turnover £48.7m (£42.1m)  
Pre-tax profits £2.55m (£2.02m)  
Dividend gross 5p (3p)

The scheme agreed in Basle and announced on Monday to deal with the problems of Britain's sterling balances has still some rough edges which need to be smoothed off, but it is clear enough that the world's monetary authorities have learnt to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Whether through the use of the special stand-by credit arranged with the Bank for International Settlements, or whether through the sale of dollar and other foreign currency bonds, the British Government is now clearly committed to ending sterling's role as a reserve currency in the world.

The importance of the sterling balance problem is often overstated, since the amount of money involved are not enormous and few countries are so heavily committed to sterling now that worrying about the pound is one of their most important priorities.

It is even easier to fool ourselves into thinking that sterling balances are something which were forced on us long ago by our imperial role, and that this generation has had to deal with an inherited problem.

As the table shows, most of the difficulties and the benefits from sterling balances in recent years have come from the rapid inflow of oil funds which began at the end of 1973 and which were welcomed as a way of tiding us over an acute current account deficit.

But these qualifications apart, the agreement in Basle could mark a settlement of lasting importance. It is the final step in a series of measures, of which the other most important one was the loan from the International Monetary Fund, which are designed to mark the end of years of chronic balance of payments deficits and weak currency.

With the uncertainties caused by capital movements out of the way, the picture looks rosy in any case and the prospect of a North Sea oil surplus by next year comes into sharper focus.

In some ways the most encouraging part of the deal is that it is clearly designed not to stabilize the sterling balances but to get rid of them. Although the authorities are determined to do nothing which might be interpreted as putting pressure on foreign holders to, for example, buy the new government bonds, the real success of the two-part scheme adopted will not be that it may never be necessary to bring it into effect but that it does provide a way out of the whole problem.

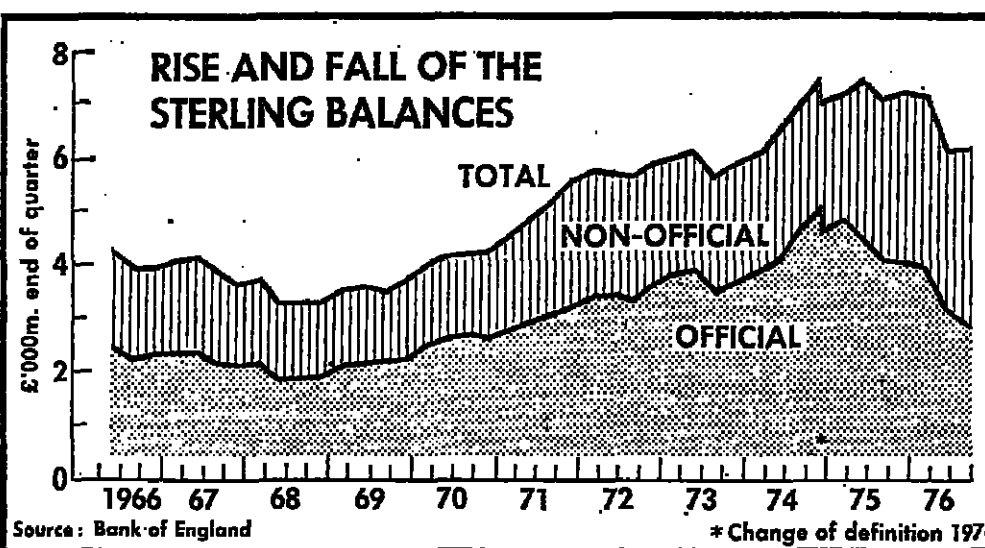
In doing so, it will get rid of what has been a source of increasing worry to governments over the past 30 years, though one which in the past they have never really wanted to get rid of.

When sterling balances were building up in the past, governments have tended to encourage them, looking on it as a sign of how highly their policies were regarded. When the balances have gone down they have called "foul".

The sterling balances in their present form date from the

OFFICIAL STERLING BALANCES			
	All Holders	Oil Exporting Countries	
1973 Q3	£m 3,494	£m 719	
1974 Q1	3,889	959	
Q2	3,957	1,282	
Q3	4,155	1,868	
Q4	4,721	2,763	
1975 Q1	5,088	3,183	
Q2	4,877	3,449	
Q3	4,595	3,239	
Q4	4,215	2,943	
1976 Q1	4,102	2,839	
Q2	4,016	2,622	
Q3	3,111	1,964	
Q4	2,756	1,541	

## As the sun sets on the sterling balances...



Second World War. One of the ways in which Britain's participation in that conflict was financed was to encourage the building up of deposits in London by the dominions and colonies.

The most important holder was India, which became independent shortly after the war and which ran down its holdings during the 1950s. This run-down, however, did not cause anything like the problem which had been expected when the new world monetary order was set up in 1944, partly because by the 'fifties the United Kingdom's balance of payments crisis had eased and partly because, as the war-time holders of sterling ran their balances down, so other colonies built them up.

The official British attitude at this time was not to look upon sterling balances as a necessary part of sterling's role as a reserve currency. Although some outside observers, most notably the French, were strongly critical of this, their attitude was attributed to a mixture of jealousy and lack of understanding.

The fact that much of the world's trade was denominated in sterling provided some psychological compensation for the fact that the amount of it accounted for by British exports was falling rapidly, while having access to the resources of the sterling area as a whole was thought to make the United Kingdom's payments problem easier to handle.

Also, sterling's reserve currency role was given much of the credit for London's reemergence as a financial centre.

Many of these reasons may have been wrong, but it is doubtful whether a country whose export performance was declining as rapidly as the United Kingdom's could have afforded to pay off an external debt of about £3,000m during the fifties.

As long as the pound remained fairly stable, so did the total of the sterling balances. Indeed, a desire to ensure that sterling holders did not feel cheated is generally thought to have been one of the motives behind the authorities' determination to keep a fixed value for the pound during the fifties and early sixties, even at the price of holding down growth in the British economy.

Some of the most perceptive critics during the sixties argued that it was the tying of British policy to that sort of tight money strategy which was the real damage done by the sterling balances. Instead of being a force likely to stimulate a devaluation, they helped to make it less likely.

That is not how it appeared to makers of government policy during the latter part of that decade and it seems likely that the scars of the last desperate battle to protect the pound's parity, which occurred during the time that Mr James Callaghan was Chancellor, must have had a great impact on thinking during the past few months about the sterling balances.

These years were ones of recurrent crisis for the pound and yet between 1962 and the end of 1973, the total value of sterling balances actually increased sharply, from £3,860m to £5,900m.

During this period there were two Basle agreements designed to deal with the problem of the balances and they both led to a sharp increase in sterling funds in London, which made

ment provided helped to stabilize the pound, but it certainly provided no phased programme for getting rid of the sterling balances. During the first half of 1967 the balances rose, before falling sharply in the months before the November devaluation.

Just how great a role a run-down of sterling balances played in that devaluation is open to argument. Most commentators would now agree that the devaluation was both inevitable and overdue and that the run-down which occurred in the months between June and November was of limited importance and surprisingly late.

The balances of the sterling area countries, which at that time accounted for the bulk of the sterling balances, remained remarkably stable: their turn was to come later. The run on the pound in 1967 consisted almost entirely of a drop in non-sterling area holdings, which fell by £350m, of which £250m was accounted for by private holdings in western Europe and the United States.

It was in the uncertain period after devaluation but before the current account had begun to improve that the sterling area countries began their move out of London and provoked the next arrangement to prop up the United Kingdom. Sterling countries suffered heavily in the 1967 devaluation, since they held something like 70 per cent of their reserves in pounds (it had been 85 per cent).

Having been burnt once, Commonwealth countries did not want to get caught again at a time when many experts were forecasting a further devaluation of the pound. They sold

### Patricia Tisdall

## Why the holiday tour groups fear a price war

The established operators, with the warning of the collapse of Clarksons Holidays and others still vivid, are keenly aware of the importance of standard costs. According to the Civil Aviation Authority figures, the top 30 tour operators collectively moved into the lack in 1975 after at least three years of making money and are thought to have stayed there in 1976, despite a smaller number of holiday prices, as because prices were more adequate to cover costs.

The fear is that panic pricing could tip the carefully balanced profit scales. The other tour operators are nevertheless alive to the attractiveness of lower holiday prices, the more so since Cosmos (Swiss-owned and based in Liechtenstein) appears this year to have won substantial trade from British-based operators like Thomson and Thomas Cook. Airways through the lower-priced packages it offers.

Even before the British Airways move Thomson had prepared to cater for holiday-makers wanting to economize, but it was by drawing up special economy programmes rather than cutting existing prices. One of the more ingenious schemes introduced under the "Square Deal" name offers reductions to holidaymakers prepared to leave the choice of hotel at a given resort (out of an illustrated and named selection) to the tour operator.

Both Thomson and Cosmos have reserved the option to offer discounts for holidays booked within a month of departure and, if bookings do not pick up soon, they and their operators are likely to take the option up. But a price war on the scale forecast by some observers and as seen in the late 1960s, during the heyday of the package tour, is unlikely to be repeated.

Tour operators want, for instance, to walk and see how costs perform without surcharges. Introduced after the 1973 oil crisis these are a fairly recent entrant to the package holiday mix and the more responsible operators feel guilty about them. They are unlikely to be implemented.

Some companies collected late surcharges at the airports. Others were accused of quoting unrealistically low brochure prices, secure in the knowledge that they could raise them later.

Most tour operators have agreed for some time that surcharges should be abolished, but doing this may not prove easy. Package holiday prices are made up of three main components—the cost of the hotel, which for an average short-haul 14-night holiday, costing about £175, would amount to about £15, per cent; the air fare, which on such a holiday would account for about 25 per cent; and the tour operator's costs

heavily, so that by September, 1968, the proportion of their reserves in sterling had fallen to 53 per cent.

This drop was entirely accounted for by a run-down of official holdings; private sterling area balances remained almost stationary. Nonetheless, the fall was worrying enough for a new Basle support system to be agreed in September, 1968, a system which ensured that the problem would grow dramatically worse.

This second Basle facility had two parts. The central banks of other countries agreed to provide a \$2,000m facility to top up reserves of the United Kingdom whenever these were depleted by a run-down in the level of the balances.

That on its own made sense, but it was coupled with a scheme designed not to phase out the balances but to maintain them. Holders in sterling area countries were offered a guarantee of compensation against a drop in the pound's parity. This guarantee protected a country's entire official held sterling reserves with the exception of an amount equivalent to 10 per cent of that country's total reserves.

Even worse, the sterling area countries were asked to return for this to pledge a minimum proportion of their reserves in sterling, which meant that if their total reserves were to go down the total of their sterling balances. This duly happened in the early seventies when sterling area countries ran large balance of payments surpluses.

Although the required proportion was reduced when the scheme was renewed in 1974, it was not until 1973 that the rules were changed to stop a country being required to go on raising its sterling balances as its total reserves rose if it wanted to hold on to the guarantee.

In one sense that Basle agreement was a success. The \$2,000m needed to be used—the largest drawing of \$600m, was repaid to the Bank for International Settlements within a year—and only about £60m was ever paid out in compensation.

But the fact that the central bank scheme to end the problem of sterling balances had come converted into a system for using them to encourage funds to flow into London makes the form chosen look very unfortunate in retrospect. The new scheme seems not likely to be open to the same criticisms.

## Business Diary: Strike bonus: CEEB's reduced power

At British Leyland's body plant at Cowley, where yesterday that production has improved since the day's 450 foremen went on strike.

It is said that the quarterly electricity bill at his Reigate home is rarely less than £200, thanks to his all-electric style of living, which ranges from an electric car to underfloor electric heating.

The CEEB cannot really go on much longer on this reduced "manpower": look out, therefore, either for some fresh appointments soon—or for some worker representatives if Energy Secretary Tony Benn gets his way and uses electricity supply as his testing ground for industrial democracy.

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The First Hundred Years, a centenary history written by Rex Wansbury.

Much of the interest inevitably lies in what the book tells us about the early years of the firm, particularly about the founder, Thomson McLintock, whose lack of formal qualifications led him to become an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales rather than the more strictly regulated Scottish professional bodies.

He was, apparently, an eminently practical man. Rather than sell off stock at knock-down prices in a grocer's liquidation, he decided to continue the business and went behind the shop counter himself, which ensured a better deal for creditors and demand for his services in future liquidations.

The McLintock family are still in the business, though not at present as senior partners. Of the family line, however, it was perhaps Thomson's son, Sir William, who has been the biggest driving force in the firm over the past hundred years. He was largely responsible for the explosive growth in the London office in the inter-war years, became an important figure in the accounting and financial world of the day and played his part in the creation of ICI—where Thomson McLintock remains joint auditors.

Among their more recent coups have been the audits of the National Enterprise Board and the British National Oil Corporation.

The firm will further celebrate the centenary with a return to the native heath in

October when it will virtually be taking over Gleneagles for a week.

### Tax race

President Ford surprisingly just cannot wait for Jimmy Carter to take over at the White House.

Carter, it will be recalled, pledged tax cuts and the creation of a new Energy Department. President Ford now seems so keen on these ideas that he has decided to help his successor by proposing them himself just before leaving office.

Last week Ford beat Carter by three days in announcing a package of tax cuts and yesterday he beat Carter again by sending proposals to Congress to merge many government energy agencies into a single department of energy.

Even Elliot Richardson, the Secretary of Commerce, admits that the energy plan closely resembles the one that Carter is likely to propose.

Congress, meanwhile, has little time for Ford. The President's proposals are not even being taken seriously on Capitol Hill as congressmen wait for proposals from the new President.

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Happy for accountants Thomson McLintock they enter 1977, their centenary year, with last September's Department of Trade report on the affairs of Ralph Hutton Transport Services now little more than a memory.

The report, inter alia, said that Thomson McLintock had acted without reasonable skill in one instance. This year, however, appears another sort of report, Thomson McLintock—

The First Hundred Years, a centenary history written by Rex Wansbury.

Much of the interest inevitably lies in what the book tells us about the early years of the firm, particularly about the founder, Thomson McLintock, whose lack of formal qualifications led him to become an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales rather than the more strictly regulated Scottish professional bodies.

He was, apparently, an eminently practical man. Rather than sell off stock at knock-down prices in a grocer's liquidation, he decided to continue the business and went behind the shop counter himself, which ensured a better deal for creditors and demand for his services in future liquidations.

The McLintock family are still in the business, though not at present as senior partners. Of the family line, however, it was perhaps Thomson's son, Sir William, who has been the biggest driving force in the firm over the past hundred years. He was largely responsible for the explosive growth in the London office in the inter-war years, became an important figure in the accounting and financial world of the day and played his part in the creation of ICI—where Thomson McLintock remains joint auditors.

Among their more recent coups have been the audits of the National Enterprise Board and the British National Oil Corporation.

The firm will further celebrate the centenary with a return to the native heath in

October when it will virtually be taking over Gleneagles for a week.

### Tax race

President Ford surprisingly just cannot wait for Jimmy Carter to take over at the White House.

Carter, it will be recalled, pledged tax cuts and the creation of a new Energy Department. President Ford now seems so keen on these ideas that he has decided to help his successor by proposing them himself just before leaving office.

Last week Ford beat Carter by three days in announcing a package of tax cuts and yesterday he beat Carter again by sending proposals to Congress to merge many government energy agencies into a single department of energy.

Even Elliot Richardson, the Secretary of Commerce, admits that the energy plan closely resembles the one that Carter is likely to propose.

Congress, meanwhile, has little time for Ford. The President's proposals are not even being taken seriously on Capitol Hill as congressmen wait for proposals from the new President.

Most of Congress's time this week—illustrating its keenness to let President-elect Carter get down to business as soon as he takes office on January 20—is being devoted to hearings to confirm the cabinet secretaries chosen by the newcomer.











**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.**

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# La creme de la creme Opportunities

-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

All recruitment advertisements in this category are open to both male and female applicants

## Top Jobs for Top People

### MERCHANT BANK CITY

An opportunity for an efficient young secretary in her/his twenties to become Secretary to a Junior Director of a famous Merchant Bank. The prospects and benefits are excellent. Convenient to Liverpool Street. Starting salary to £3,200.  
Contact: Mrs. D. Shafer 01-235 9984

### MAYFAIR to £3,200

A young secretary with plenty of initiative and drive, who is looking for a career in Personnel work, is needed by a top Company. Good shorthand and typing skills form a basis for administrative work and a range and variety of duties above the average.  
Contact: Mrs. J. Armit 01-235 9984

### P.A. W.I. Starting £3,200

The Consultancy division of a National Employers' Federation requires a P.A./Secretary for their General Manager. Sound secretarial skills, and a high standard of English are essential. This is a key liaison position and initiative and enthusiasm will be fully appreciated. Twice annual salary reviews + private house, also 2 yrs pension scheme. Own office. Age range 21-30.  
Contact: Miss M. Cornforth 01-235 9984

### HAMMERSMITH to £3,200

A capable secretary who is looking for a career that offers responsibility and interest, is required by a large and progressive Company. Shorthand and typing skills must be good, administrative duties cover the overseas trading aspects for a division. Staff resources, season ticket loan and exceptional facilities. Age 22-35.  
Contact: Miss A. Moriarty 01-235 9984

We shall be open until 6.45 p.m. every Thursday from now on. Please telephone Mrs. Dorothy Allison or Miss Margaret Cornforth on 01-235 9984 for an appointment.

**PER Executive Secretaries**  
45 Grosvenor Place, Hyde Park Corner

### SECRETARY/P.A. TO COMPANY CHAIRMAN

Intelligent Secretary/Personal Assistant required for chairman of expanding public company with interests in the U.K. and overseas. The successful applicant will have a good standard of education, accurate shorthand and typing although good speeds not essential, a pleasant personality and the ability to work on own initiative.  
Applications in confidence to The Chairman, Rembrandt House, 539 London Road, Isleworth, Middlesex. Telephone 01-568 0532.

### Assistant to the BUSINESS DIRECTOR

The Business Director is responsible for the marketing and distribution of a wide range of specialised publications with an international circulation and for subscription and sales administration.  
An assistant is required to deal with routine matters such as inquiries by letter and telephone, handling of advertisements and all stages of promotional mailings.  
Previous experience in the book trade, advertising or marketing is desirable but not essential. The successful candidate must demonstrate other relevant qualities. The ability to write good English is essential and the ability to type is highly desirable. An attractive salary, lunch voucher, pension scheme and 4 weeks holiday are offered.  
Please write, giving full details to the Administrative Manager, The Economist Intelligence Unit, Spencer House, 27 St. James's Place, London SW1A 1NT.

### PA, AGED 20-30

with good typing (some shorthand) who can organise the smooth running of the office, cope with problems, handle business clients, liaise with the U.K., Europe and the Middle East. The successful applicant will be well groomed, intelligent and communicative, to meet the demands of this important position. A commensurate salary of £2,500 is offered along with four weeks holiday.  
Please write, giving details of past experience, and enclosing a recent photograph, to:  
**CONSORT TRAVEL**  
12 New Burlington St., London, W.1

### PA TO RAIL PRODUCTS MANAGER

Age 30-40 years. Assistance is required in Administration, Marketing, Selling and Follow-up. Involvement will include contact with customers and suppliers in the creating of bids on rail products throughout the U.K., Europe and the Middle East. The ability to think logically and communicate are essential, together with shorthand and typing skills. This is a small busy office and we believe you can offer the right applicant long term satisfaction. Excellent salary. This will not be a mundane job.  
Phone 01-498 1071 or write to Ron Howard  
87-89 Park Street, London W1Y 4NJ

### FILM PRODUCTION

Small, fast-growing film and television production company needs an experienced Secretary to handle the admin. on the books, arrange travel and generally look after the office. If you're very efficient, interested in the film business and would like to earn £2,500 a year, this is a good chance. Write to: 581 2688.

### HOUSES! FLATS! Time for a change?

Do you have a spare flat? Do you have a spare room? Do you have a spare car? Do you have a spare office? Do you have a spare...  
TEL: 730 9856

ALSO ON PAGE 26

## SECRETARY COMPUTER SYSTEMS

We are seeking a Secretary to provide full secretarial service to a small international staff engaged in the co-ordination of computer systems in Europe. The ideal candidate will already have experience in a responsible secretarial post; a good general education, preferably higher than "O" level standard, a good command of the English language and a high standard of shorthand typing.

This post will suit someone who already has, or who would enjoy acquiring, the basic understanding of Computer Operations and who could therefore handle the associated secretarial work with a minimum of direct guidance. Approximate salary is £3,300 p.a. The job is with Eastman Kodak Company, 246 High Holborn (near Holborn Underground). Interviews will be held in London, but please apply initially with brief details to:

Personnel Department (SEP/AT), KODAK LIMITED, P.O. Box 66, Kodak House, Station Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1JU. Tel.: Hemel Hempstead 61122, ext. 20, Mrs. S. E. Petty.

## SECRETARY TO MANAGER

London up to £3,759

British Gas are looking for an experienced Secretary who will provide a comprehensive secretarial service to the Manager of the Economic Relations Department at Holborn. As he has the initial contact with all matters relating to the EEC, you would be involved in this interesting aspect of British Gas's work. In addition to general secretarial duties you will be required to handle any routine matters without immediate reference. Excellent typing and shorthand speeds are essential as is an education to "O" level standard and at least three years' secretarial experience. A knowledge of French would be helpful to you.  
Salary will be in the range £2,361 to £2,991, plus £436 Inner London Weighting and £312 flat-rate supplement.  
Please write with full details of age, qualifications, experience and current salary quoting reference EP/900618/T, to the Senior Personnel Officer (BQ), British Gas, 59 Brynston Street, London W1A 2AZ.

## MARKET RESEARCH DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

CHARING CROSS £3,000 plus LVs

A Director whose work involves him in surveys on consumer durables and magazine readership, requires an experienced Secretary aged 23 plus, with shorthand and excellent typing, preferably experienced on IBM Goldball typewriter. The successful applicant will handle a wide variety of duties so if you are adaptable, with lots of initiative, and would like to work with a friendly group of people,  
please telephone Mrs. Shirley on 01-836 1511  
**NOP MARKET RESEARCH LTD.**  
76-86 Strand, London WC2R 0DZ

## AMERICAN BANK-E.C.2

Secretary with excellent shorthand and typing skills. The position involves secretarial support for three lending officers including travel arrangements, appointments and other P.A. duties. Previous bank experience helpful but not critical.  
Salary to £3,300 per annum plus L.V.s and other benefits.  
PLEASE SEND C.V. AND SALARY HISTORY TO: BOX 2819 P, THE TIMES.

## SUCCESS!

After 10 years in telephone selling we have found most of the answers. This means that a career in our Telephone Sales Department is rewarding financially and has great deal of job satisfaction. Our team is continually expanding in an effort to keep industry advised of the training necessary to stop killing and injuring people.  
To join our team you would be aged 25-35, have a pleasant speaking voice, determination and the ability to learn.  
Interested?  
CALL THE BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL  
London, W.6, on 01-741 1231, extn. 50 or 59.

## GLOBE TROTTER MANAGING DIRECTOR

of small City based Marine Insurance Company requires highly skilled PA/Secretary. Must be capable of 'holding the fort' during his frequent trips abroad. Salary negotiable from £3,300. L.V.s 4 weeks annual holiday.  
Please telephone 01-626 3777.

## GERMANY £6,500 P.A.

Chief executive, I.T.S., requires Secretary with fluent GERMAN and loads of initiative to assist him with his work and liaising with various departments and overseas offices. Shortlisting and interviewing will be done by the company. Post for efficient person with at least two years' secretarial experience. Excellent working conditions, large salary and assistance with accommodation.  
MULTILINGUAL SERVICES, 22 Charing Cross Rd., W.C.2. 01-836 3794/5

## CATERING MANAGER/ESS

Young ladies or gentlemen who have had Catering training and some experience and would like to manage a Snack Bar in imposing West End office of multi-national company, offering high salary, excellent career opportunities and fringe benefits.  
Apply to CATERING and ALLIED SERVICES Limited, 22 Chichester High Rd., W.1. 01-885 8447.

## TO £3,500 (+ TRAVEL) N.W.10 SENIOR P.A./SEC.

For Managing Director of rapidly expanding leisure group. Adaptable person who can delegate and supervise a staff of 10-12. Excellent salary and benefits. Tel. 439 2587 for details and interview.

## Secretary-Personnel

£3,276-£3,600

We need a competent and experienced Secretary who can provide a complete secretarial service to our Senior Assistant Director, dealing with personnel policies for the Council.

We are seeking a skilled shorthand typist who will be able to receive visitors, screen telephone calls, arrange travel and meetings, plus dealing with correspondence and taking notes of meetings.

You will be involved with confidential work where tact and discretion are needed in dealing with people at all levels.

Interested? Benefits include flexitime, 23 days holiday, canteen and superannuation scheme. We are near Brixton tube and main line stations.

Application forms are obtainable from the Recruitment Officer, Directorate of Management Services, London Borough of Lambeth, 17 Porden Road, Brixton Hill, London SW2 5SS, or tel. 01-274 7722, extn. 148/143. Closing date 24th January, 1977.

## EUROPEAN LANGUAGES A SPECIALITY?

Good English and at least one other European language, fast accurate typing (no shorthand required) and the ability to work under pressure are all essentials in this demanding yet rewarding position.

The much travelled Sales Managers of one of our busiest and fast expanding product lines dealing with the newspaper industry throughout Europe need a calm and capable secretary to complete their Sales Team.

In return we offer a very attractive salary, some European travel, four weeks holiday, pension scheme and a subsidised restaurant.

To find out more contact Angelina Birrane, Personnel Officer, W.R. Grace Ltd., Northdale House, North Circular Road, London, W.10. Tel: 01-885 8911.

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT £4,000+

The Managing Director of a long established but go-ahead medium sized Company with offices and car park in the City requires assistance from a lively, intelligent person of good appearance and pleasing personality, who is able to work closely with him and on own initiative. Applicants must be well qualified in basic secretarial skills (including shorthand). The work can be demanding but will be rewarded with a commencing salary of £4,000 per annum, plus an annual ex gratia bonus; L.V.s, a first class pension scheme and B.U.P.A. benefits.

Please reply giving age and full particulars of previous experience to the Managing Director.  
Box No 2808 P, The Times.

## JUDY FARQUHARSON LTD.

GRADUATE, aged 25-30, with good typing, commercially minded and ability to write reports, to work for Mayfair Management Committee.  
SALARY: £3,500-£4,000. Several top jobs. Only people with impeccable skills and appearance need apply.  
MARKET RESEARCH EXECUTIVE. Graduate with minimum 2 years relevant experience for electronics company just south of London Airport. Salary around £4,000.  
ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT. Preferably wages experience, to work for very nice firm with lovely offices in Regent St.  
We are also interested in: Computer Software Sales Executives, Civil Engineer for marketing in W.I., Industrial Public Relations Executive and Secretarial College leavers.  
TELEPHONE: 01-493 8824  
37, STRATTON STREET, GREEN PARK, LONDON, W.1.

## GERMAN MOTHER TONGUE

Mature person settled this country wanted to MANAGE 12 FURNISHED FLATS plus secretarial work in international and voluntary fields. Based private house Belgravia. Must drive; good French an asset. Depending upon experience, salary around £3,500.  
01-235 0555

## TELEVISION SECRETARY

Major American Distribution Company in W.I. requires experienced Senior Confidential  
for Managing Director. Applicant is responsible position requiring excellent shorthand typing credentials. Work involves correspondence with many countries and meeting with visiting Senior Executives and Overseas Clients.  
Position decidedly stimulating and offers considerable scope. Able to speak "Australian" decided advantage! Salary £3,250.  
\*Phone for immediate appointment Miss Greenhigh 580 2080.

## THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

GREAT ORMOND STREET LONDON W.1  
Supervisor of Medical Secretaries  
required. Medical Secretaries with experience and initiative. Duties will include supervising the work of medical secretaries in all aspects of medical work with the hospital and its outpatients. The post carries a salary commencing at £3,357 p.a., rising annually to £4,200 inclusive. Job description and application form (see Green) Personnel Office (Tel. 01-405 2000 Ext. 628). Closing date 28th January, 1977.

## Wanted Immediately Unique Career Opportunity

In 1977 a luxury liner sets out across the ocean on a 3 month sales expedition with 12 famous shops and industries. MD organising this venture needs an equally unique Secretary. You need excellent secretarial skills, be highly independent, intelligent and alert. You will be dealing with many problems. Our offices are in Stag Place SW1, Starting salary £2,500-£3,000 depending on your ability. Please phone 01-828 5201 or 7504.

## ARE YOU EASY-GOING BUT QUICK-WITTED?

Overworked Partner in a West End Provisional Club is looking for a Secretary/PA with excellent shorthand and typing skills. Must be able to handle a wide range of all around office tasks. For further information please ring 01-488 7188.

## SECRETARY TO M.D. INTERNATIONAL BANK TO £4,000 + BENEFITS

The M.D. of this very active International City Bank is looking for someone to act as his personal Secretary. You will need to be a highly efficient, intelligent, and capable person. You will need to be able to handle a wide range of all around office tasks. For further information please ring 01-488 7188.

## Bilingual Secretary—English/German

Hoechst UK Limited, an international chemical and pharmaceutical company, now have an opportunity within their Pharmaceutical Division for a Bilingual Secretary.

The Divisional Director of the Commercial Department seeks a capable Secretary with previous experience of working at senior management level and the ability to read and communicate in German. This is an interesting and responsible post, and would suit a Secretary able to use his/her own initiative.

The salary is attractive and other benefits are of the high standard expected of a major company.

Please apply to:  
Miss R. J. Tinkler, Personnel Officer, Pharmaceutical Division, Hoechst UK Limited, Hoechst House, Salisbury Road, HOUNSLOW, Middlesex. Tel. 01-570 7712.

## TRILINGUAL SECRETARY/SOCIAL P.A. SPAIN

For American Director of Spain's leading Shoe Designer/Manufacturer.

Mature, responsible and attractive lady with no less and looking for a career, who has a love of elegant shoes and a size 5 English foot, or very close, and is able to speak, read and write English, Spanish and French, and hopefully, some German, as well as having accurate shorthand and typing, is required to work very closely with the American Director of Spain's leading elegant women's shoe designer/manufacturer.

She must be prepared to become involved in the international marketing field, liaising directly with factory operations which will call for a high degree of individuality and personality, and especially travelling, at first with her Director and then on her own, throughout Europe and North America.

Although a love for shoes and travel is all important, the successful applicant will command a salary that is equivalent to that of approx. £2,750 net.

Please reply in writing, giving a telephone number and details of experience to:—  
MR. P. WELSFORD  
WELSFORD JENNINGS & CO.,  
24 BEDFORD SQUARE, LONDON WC1B 3HH  
Interviews will be held in London.

## Confidential Secretaries

Circa £3,760 COLINDALE NW9.

General Motors Overseas Corporation is looking for Secretaries to work for two Directors at their European Headquarters, Colindale.

These are both very senior positions and the secretaries must be of the highest calibre; able to provide a full and complete Secretarial Service. In addition, as both men travel extensively their secretaries would be expected and encouraged to maintain continuity in their absence.

Applicants must have had several years experience working at a high level, preferably with a large international company. Preferred age 30-45 years.

In addition to high starting salary and excellent working conditions, the successful applicants will be working in a relatively small group, but have the advantages and benefits of being part of a large international Corporation.

Please write giving recent job details and, if possible, daytime telephone number to: A.J. Norris, General Motors Limited, Stag Lane, London NW9 9.

## CONVEYANCING SECRETARY

Conveyancing partner requires intelligent Secretary aged 22/23 with practical conveyancing experience to handle some aspects of conveyancing with limited supervision and to take shorthand as required. Modern open-plan office in Aldwych area, IBM Goldball typewriter, hours 9.30-5.30. Salary £3,000 neg. plus £1.25 L.V.s p.w.  
01-831 7526

## INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY CLOSE TO HOLLAND PARK

Small but busy Publishing House has immediate vacancy for experienced SECRETARY/PA with impeccable shorthand and typing, to work for Sales Director. Applicant must be a good organizer and able to work on own initiative. Working knowledge of Italian and Spanish desirable.

Starting salary £3,250 plus bonus. Offices close to tube and buses in W.12. Car-parking facilities.

Please ring Miss Gabant on 01-749 3926 for further information.

## ADMIN SECRETARY MAYFAIR — £3,500 +

National Industrial Promotion Organisation, widely regarded as one of the most effective in the world, requires a competent senior secretary to join its U.K. office in Mayfair, dealing with international recruitment projects.

The successful applicant, assisted by one other secretary, will be capable of organising and taking charge of the day-to-day administration of a small office, as well as assisting with the planning of promotional functions. A high degree of job commitment as well as the ability to work as part of a multi team is essential.

Starting salary negotiable in the range £3,500-£4,000 p.a. Contact Mr. Jack Thompson, Irish Industrial Development Authority, 01-439 6155

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Based in W.1 near Baker Street we are the busiest (small but hectic) Public Relations office in London, handling many blue chip accounts predominantly in the areas of sponsored sport and showbusiness.

Our Chief Executive urgently needs an efficient P.A./Secretary who will think and act at his fast pace. Not for the faint hearted perhaps, but never a dull moment.

Please apply to Box 2808 P, The Times, stating experience, current remuneration and required salary.

## PRESIDENT'S P.A. WITH SOME FRENCH TO £3,500

Interesting role for cheerful and resilient young SECRETARY/PA with some conversational French, assisting U.K. based President of international Finance organisation. He is charming and dynamic and demands lots of personal initiative!

Miss Gibbs, CHALLONERS, 19/23 Oxford Street, W.1 01-749 8336

## FIRST CLASS SECRETARY

with good salary required by small, highly motivated firm. Confidentiality. We Management Consultants. We need someone who can look after 2 Directors, will deal occasionally and cope with some industrial/commercial research. Since we are a small office a sense of humour and responsibility is essential. Salary negotiable in the £3,000 bracket.  
01-638 6186

## SHORTHAND SECRETARY

A young but active Partner, specialising in general commercial work and largely responsible for internal administration in a growing and friendly W.C.1 office of solicitors, requires a tactful secretary with a sense of humour (aged over 25), with good shorthand and typing speeds. Salary not less than £3,150 + bonus, plus a small bonus scheme. Please telephone Miss D. Pitts on 242 7118

## SECRETARY/SHORTHAND TYPIST TO FINANCE DIRECTOR

£3,000. 4 weeks holiday, free lunches, I.B.M. Goldball, modern offices. Apply with c.v. to Ref. D.C.

ASSOCIATED FISHERIES LTD. 16 Queens Anne's Gate, London, SW7H 9AQ

## REALLY USE YOUR FRENCH

As Secretary (English mother tongue) working for the young Executive of a leading overseas bank in the City, 23-30. To £250 to start. MORE FROM MATILDA MACINTYRE











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